

# MPNA News

## The Melrose Park Neighbors Association

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Volume 2 – Number 77

From MPNA President – Andy Rudin

Sunday, August 09, 2009

### Minutes of the Melrose Park Neighbors Association Meeting

A general meeting of the Melrose Park Neighbors Association (MPNA) was held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> at the home of Albert and Martha Fried-Cassorla in Melrose Park. I didn't attend the meeting. If you have questions or corrections about the minutes, contact Albert Fried-Cassorla at [albfcc@verizon.net](mailto:albfcc@verizon.net) or call 215-635-5189 or 215-219-4772.



### Proposed agenda:

1. Introductions – please tell your name & where you live, and any particular interests you have. Note – we need a person to take minutes (Albert did)
2. Propose & change or approve agenda
3. Brief topics by Albert & board members present: membership – Jim Muldoon & Michael Shechtman, newsletter, brief history
4. Discussion with Rep. Larry Curry
5. Creekside Coop news – Andy Schloss
6. Community garden idea – Ron and Beth
7. Upcoming debate news
8. Myers Elementary School re-opening
9. Housing development issues

### Attending:

Greg Byrd- active neighbor

Tony Lent - active neighbor

Ricki Lent - Long time MPNA gardener/beautifier

Mary Beth Carroll – running for Commissioner in 4<sup>th</sup> Ward – very interested in We the People and local development issues

Natakie Hursky – very interested in We the People and local development issues

Andrew Schloss - food book author and part of the founding group of the Creekside Coop

Albert Fried-Cassorla - MPNA board member

Rep. Larry Curry - PA State representative

Mary Curry - Mr. Curry's wife and presumably his aide as well

## Development Issues

Natalie spoke about the parking Garage – Community Environmental Defense League <http://www.cc4a.org/> is opposing the garage. Board of elections will determine if it is a legal referendum. They are opposed to the initially proposed structure for Jenkintown Wyncote station.

This referendum would be the biggest change of its kind. Could be referendum against Matrix.

New garage is not ADA compliant. Shuttle needed to Noble train station.

## Matrix planning to develop Ashbourne Country

Mary Beth and Natalie opened the discussion of the development of the Ashbourne Country Club with clusters of housing, owned. Old proposal: 16 buildings, 176 apartments ; other portion 103 lots with 1, 2 or 3 houses. Property and school taxes will be paid. However...

Local governments can make all decisions, according to Rep. Curry. Strip Mining, other issues were emptied by corporations buying land.

Web site [www.celdf.org](http://www.celdf.org) tells of other challenges.

Craig Byrd liked the idea of local control of development.

We discussed whether there is money or funds for preserving land.

**The farm** near the Country Club is in disrepair. Tony Lent and Representative Curry stated that August 13 or Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> zoning board meetings may allow for a continuance to obtain a for new plan. Rep. Curry says it is important to save the house at the old farm. It dates to Wyck House's times.

## Andy Schloss on the new Creekside Coop

Visit <http://www.creekside.coop/> Well over 1100 household members have signed up. The Ashbourne Market was a community center, and this will revive it, we lost the pharmacy, the bank and then the market. They are awaiting approval from the Harrisburg Office of the USDA. That is a federal issue, so is not directly impacted by state government.

## Economic Development

Cheltenham Avenue could be beautified. This is Development area #7 according to the plan,. Ricki – more trees are needed... improve and repair the avenue, median strips and surrounding area. Tony: derelict properties there too on Cheltenham side at Old York near off-ramp.

**Stream water quality** - Oil barricades. Massive amounts of anti-freeze observed by Tony - not dye used to test. Trash, sewage and anti-freeze. Can we get a screen to stop trash from washing into Cheltenham? Much trash came from the Korean markets, according to Rep. Curry. Natalie: ban plastic bags. Rep. Curry: Odor .... Township should look into it. Question for Mike Swavola. Can we have a screen to screen our tons of trash running into our stream (Mill Run)? Mike Swavola said on other occasions that this would be too expensive to maintain. But perhaps we can identify a special grant or funding source to do just that, with Rep. Curry's help. We did not have new stream contamination data to report, although that should be coming soon, according to an email from JoAnne Dahme.

## Education

Myers Elementary School is opening ..... Tony: AC unit is very noisy. Din. No solar. Next time there is a building project with schools, we should monitor the process more. Problems with the local Board in not understanding environmental considerations.

Albert spoke about the state Education budget being locked up in political disagreements between the Democrats and Republicans. This may result in expensive borrowing necessitated by school districts, or worse. Also, nationally, the Department of Education is forcing many or all school districts to close so-

called failing schools, or struggling schools. All teachers are fired and the schools are turned over to private companies, which then attempt to recruit new teachers and re-open. This model is being forced on schools around the nation. No hard data supports the idea that the new schools do a better job.

### Rep. Larry Curry

Our state representative and his wife, Mary Curry, rushed back from a legislative session to join our meeting. Rep. Curry offered to be of help to us on specific issues where he can have an impact. He invited MPNA to get back to him with an action agenda. MPNA

## Latest Stream Pollution Statistics

At the beginning of MPNA's latest resurgence in the early 1990s, we tackled the problem of pollution in Mill Run, a stream that first sees daylight at the corner of Cheltenham and Coventry. The stream flows along Coventry and turns left at New Second Street, flows through the Ashbourne Country Club golf course and empties into the Tacony Creek near the fire training building on Tacony Creek Parkway.

A few years ago, it was terribly polluted, with coliform bacteria many times the number per milliliter that closes a public pool or beach. With the help of the Philadelphia Water Department and the Department of Environmental Protection, MPNA worked to clean up Mill Run. Bear in mind that the stream was an outflow from a large lake on Cheltenham Avenue, opposite the Philadelphia side street called "Lakeside." There is enough fresh water still flowing through Mill Run, but the water has been contaminated by sewer crossovers that allow detergents, fecal matter and urine contamination.

Under amendments to the Clean Water Act, the Philadelphia Water Department has the responsibility to clean up Mill Run. By some reports, the PWD has spent over a million dollars so far. The charts below show fecal coliform and fluoride at the mouth of Mill Run and at its end near the fire training building where Mill Run ends as it empties into the Tacony Creek. Fecal coliform is a measure of the fecal contamination of Mill Run. The fluoride statistics are an indication of how much PWD water is entering the stream because the PWD adds fluoride to its water supply.

Reading	Fecal	Fluoride
Date	Coliform	
	#/100 ml.	Mg/L

#### At Cheltenham and Coventry

5/12/09	44,500	0.239
5/19/09	2,800	0.356
5/26/09	5,600	0.313
6/24/09	2,700	0.246
6/24/09	2,000	0.246

#### At Tacony Creek

5/12/09	360	0.213
5/19/09	300	0.303
5/26/09	1,000	0.274
6/24/09	2,300	0.181
6/24/09	700	0.181
7/15/09	600	0.108

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## **This Newsletter**

If you have any suggestions for items for this newsletter, feel free to email them to me at [andrewrudin@earthlink.net](mailto:andrewrudin@earthlink.net) MPNA

## **MPNA memberships**

Membership in MPNA helps pay for plantings, signage, and many other things. Annual dues are \$10 per individual, \$20 per household. Send your contribution to MPNA Board member Jim Muldoon, 106 Parkview Road, Cheltenham, PA 19012. The membership cycle is the calendar year. MPNA

## **MPNA Board**

Members of the MPNA Board are Andrew Rudin, Phil Kates, Michael Sheckman, Jim Muldoon and Albert Fried-Cassorla. If you are interested in helping out with MPNA, please email me at [andrewrudin@earthlink.net](mailto:andrewrudin@earthlink.net). This newsletter is available or will be soon on our website – [www.melroseparkneighbors.org](http://www.melroseparkneighbors.org) MPNA

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