

Melrose Business and Community Association January 13, 2010 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Lucas at 11:35 am. Reverend Jeanne Hill gave the blessing. President Lucas led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, after which lunch was served. Lunch was supplied by the Subway Sandwich Shop and Lake Area Bakery Delights. There were 40 members and guests present.

Following lunch, President Lucas introduced guest David Beede, who entertained us with his new song "Melrose" which was enjoyed by all.

The following guests were introduced.

Tom Prael, who told us about his handyman service

Melanie Grogan announced a gourmet dinner and a concert by David Mallett on Jan.20.

Richard Yaun spoke about his computer repair business

Kerry Rowell of Mercantile Bank, Palatka

Diane Clark and Bill Moran who run a summer camp in upstate New York

Leo Lowe of the Alachua County Sheriff's Department reported that there has been an increase in car thefts and burglaries in the Melrose area . He said use your common sense with regards to security. He will also do security checks on homes and businesses in the Melrose area for free. However, check with your home county to see if they will provide this service for you before contacting him.

President Lucas then introduced the officers and board members for the year 2010.

Both the minutes of the last regular meeting and the Treasurer's report were accepted as presented.

Committee Reports

Melrose Bay Park: William Chiappini reported that the Bay Park is open everyday and that he will contact Alachua County with regards to filling in the erosion in the beach.

Merry Melrose Festival: Ed Sherwood said he had great response for the festival with 36 registered vendors. Of these, 65 to 75 percent of the vendors felt that it was worth it to attend. Ed is starting to plan for the 2010 festival. Also, the Melrose Farmers Market will be back starting this Friday from 3 pm until dark.

Merry Melrose Parade Winners: MBCA will award the certificates to the Christmas Parade winners at our evening meeting in February.

Planning Committee: President Lucas announced that we are once again forming a planning committee. Those who have agreed to serve are Ron Haase, Laura Hodges, Jonathan Leslie, and Deborah Strickland.. He asked for additional input from those present. Paul Kruger, Jennifer Pritchett, and Sally Steele expressed an interest in joining the group.

Old Business:

Evening Meetings: MBCA will hold evening meeting this year on February 11, May 13, and August 12. The location will be announced at a later date.

Phone Committee: Tom asked the membership if they wanted to continue with phone reminders of the meetings. As there seemed to be an interest in this being continued, Betsy Livingston agreed to continue to call.

Santa Fe Lakefest: Jill McGuire announced that the Santa Fe Lakefest will be from 11:00 am until 3:00 pm on, Saturday, March 28, but there will not be a lake cleanup at that time.

Jill also announced an important meeting about the Northeast Fla Water Supply Plan at 6:30 pm, January 28th at the Alachua County Health Department 224 SE 24th Street, Gainesville. It is being sponsored by St. John's River Management. There will also be a meeting in February – time and location to be announced.

Sturgeon Farm: Tom reported that Claire Muirhead had received more information from the developers of the farm, but she has not had a chance to review it yet.

New Business: Tom stated that MBCA will be working in the following areas this year:

501C-3

Fund Raising

Melrose Bay Park & Fence – possible grants

Overnight Guest Facility

Guest Speaker: Rick Drummond, Assistant County Manager for Alachua County. He also oversees Growth Management, Environmental Protection, and recently has taken on the responsibility of the Convention and Visitors Bureau and the County Fairgrounds.

Mr Drummond stated that Alachua County has fared better than some others in the economic downturn due to the county's attitude toward growth in the past. He also said the county's philosophy toward growth is to find a balance between the environment, economic development and social justice.

The new County Fairgrounds will be on a 150 acre tract of land north of the airport. The fairgrounds will occupy 100 acres with the remaining 50 acres being used for an industrial park. An adjacent 75 acres will be used for a resource recovery park. A gopher tortoise preservation area is also included (the tortoises are already there).

He also had several suggestions for the MBCA planning committee: Develop a common theme for Melrose. Then get all four counties together to see how they can work together to bring about our vision for Melrose.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:35 pm.

Susan Lucas,

Recording Secretary