

Melrose Business and Community Association Membership Meeting Minutes for January 11, 2012

Welcome: President Jennifer Pritchett opened the meeting at 12:00pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Introduction of new Board members

Board members in attendance: Jennifer Pritchett, Marshall Bloom, Jean Rosebrock, Rebeca Richardson and William Chiappini

Approval of Minutes: No minutes at this time; Jean will provide minutes at the February 14, 2012, Membership meeting.

Treasurer's Report: No Treasurer's report at this time; Rebeca will provide a report at a later date.

New Business

2012 Goals for MBCA – Increase, Preserve and Encourage!

- Increase: MBCA involvement in Melrose community and vice versa
sustainability and success for local businesses
MBCA diversity (cultural, racial, spiritual, economic and generational)

- Preserve: small-town charm in the midst of growth and development
the best resources of Melrose (natural beauty, citizen advocacy,
history/historical relevance, quality standards, art/creative culture,
status as a visitor destination)

- Encourage: local businesses to provide basic community needs so residents can live
well in place
positive community lifestyle by offering choices that promote and
sustain health

Jennifer was asked the status of the MBCA's 501(c)(3) application. She will find out and give a report at the next membership meeting.

Meeting dates, times and locations for 2012: The new meeting schedule was proposed; Marshall Bloom moved to approve the Homemakers Club in Melrose for membership meetings and Jeff Knee seconded. A vote was taken and the site was approved. Membership meetings will be held there the second Tuesday of each month at 11:30am. The new location saves the MBCA \$80 for the year. Felicity suggested Trinity Episcopal Church for unusually large meetings, such as those concerning "hot-button" issues.

MBCA Community Action

Keith Bollum announced the passing of community member David T. Warner, and will advise the MBCA on how to support the Melrose arts community.

Melrose Business of the Month: Marshall offered to create a Business of the Month website.

Connecting paths: Jennifer wants the MBCA to contact Alachua County about creating a path connecting the Alachua County boat ramp and park.

Committee Reports

Membership: Jennifer Pritchett, Marshall Bloom, Rebeca Richarson, Burt Develle and Ron Haase volunteered to be on the Membership Committee.

Melrose Bay Park: William Chiappini spoke briefly on the current state of the park and introduced Gainesville Area Rowers (GAR) Head Coach Jen Figueroa.

GAR: Jen Figueroa offered a handout (see copy included) explaining what GAR needs and what they are asking from the MBCA. (Please note, anything not specifically covered in these minutes is covered in the handout.) She was asked about GAR's use of the park in summer; she said the biggest boats would go back to Newnan's Lake for the summer. Concern was raised about the park being shared by residents and rowers. Jen was asked how many boats would launch per day; she answered four was the maximum, and eight boats would be stored at any one time. Posting the rowing hours for the public's edification was suggested. Jennifer Pritchett suggested drafting a contract between GAR and the MBCA. Jen Figueroa offered to email the handout to anyone interested. Members voiced support for GAR and the idea of GAR supporting Melrose. Jen will link local businesses on GAR's website. The Alachua County Sheriff's Office Deputy Leo Lowe suggested building a chain-link cube and locking the boats to the boat tree. New signs prohibiting powerboats within 100 feet of the park were suggested. Jennifer Pritchett asked offered to put the issue to a vote or table it for another month. Ron Haase asked to delay the final decision pending Melrose Bay Property Owners Association's (MBPOA) input, and – this being approved – will have the comments to the Board on Monday, January 16, 2012. William Chiappini moved to approve GAR use of the park subject to an agreement taking into account the MBPOA's concerns. The motion was seconded, a vote was taken, and the proposal passed.

Old Business

Melrose Vision 2020: It was noted that if any member is interested in helping with this project, there is a box to check on the MBCA application.

Felicity announced that the MBCA is sponsoring the 2012 Al Burt Festival. The reception is Sunday, February 26 at the Melrose library.

MBCA Walking Group: Jennifer asked for interest in the walking group.

A motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and the meeting adjourned.

Jean Rosebrock, Secretary

Gainesville Area Rowing Proposal

1/11/12

Our Team

We are Gainesville Area Rowing, a club rowing team for middle school, high school, and adults. We are a non-profit 501(c)3 organization.

The Help We Need

Our facility is located on Newnan's Lake and we no longer have access to the lake due to the low water level. We are hoping to row out of Melrose Beach Park until our water level improves. It is really important for us to find a place to store our boats because bringing them to the public boat ramp on our trailer and unloading them, rigging them, and then de-rigging them and loading them again for each practice would be very time consuming each day. It is also not good for the equipment to transport it more than necessary as it reduces the life-span of the shells.

Length of Time

We are hoping that Melrose will be our temporary home at least until the end of our season in late May but possibly longer as we wait for the wet season and perhaps some tropical storm activity to replenish Newnan's Lake. Our middle school and high school teams row from August to late May and our adult team rows year round.

Daily Use

We will be bringing portions of our team out for practice each afternoon from 3:45-6:00. We might have a small group of adults rowing in the evenings from 6:00-7:45 when we have more light in the evenings. Our team also practices on Saturday mornings from 7:30-10:00 with another small group of adults rowing from 10:30-noon. The adult group will also have a few smaller boats stored at a resident's house across the bay so they might be there more than the beach park.

Boat Storage & Space Needed

We would like to store our boats on a "boat tree". This is a portable structure that will store our boats vertically so that they take up less space. We would like to put a chain link fence and locking gate around our equipment to protect them and maintain water safety at the park. We would like this structure to be located in a back corner of the property so that the view at the waterline is unobstructed. We would need a space that is 70 X ~~15~~²⁰ in order to fit our boats. The 8 person boats are 64 feet in length. We would be responsible for keeping our storage area very neat and clean at all times.

Number of Rowers

The total number of youth rowers on our team is around 65 and the total on our adult team is around 15. We will never bring all of our rowers to Melrose at any one time. We feel that this is too many people to bring into a quaint and quiet neighborhood and it would be inappropriate. We would like to bring around 25 rowers for our youth practices. Our team is going to be split into a girls group and a boys group so that we can reduce our numbers. Our rowers will be carpooling from their respective schools and we use carpools extensively to save on time and gas.

Parking

We expect a maximum of 12-15 cars in the neighborhood when our team is practicing. We do not want to park in front of the beach park because it will limit parking for the residents so we will be parking in the large middle median of Park Street and from there the rowers will walk down to the beach park.

Conduct of Rowers

Our rowers already have rules for their behavior and we will make sure that they are enforced. We discourage the use of profanity from our rowers and coaching staff. Our rowers will be quiet in your neighborhood and especially sensitive to noise on Saturdays. Our rowers are fantastic young people and very accomplished academically (team average GPA is a 3.7), they are wonderful individuals to coach and to observe. We will be responsible for removing our trash from the beach park as well as picking up any other trash we see.

Insurance

Our team already carries an insurance policy. If we begin rowing at Melrose Beach Park we would add the Melrose Business Owners Association to our policy as an additional insured which would indemnify the property owners.

Our Contribution

In addition to keeping the property free of trash we are able to provide a huge number of volunteers for community projects or projects to improve the beach park. We are willing and able to help in the purchase of new items to improve the park. We are also willing to cover the cost of the porta potty. The Melrose Business Owners Association's logos will be placed on our website so that the members of our club can see who is responsible for supporting us during this tough time. We will also be strongly encouraging our families to support the businesses in Melrose as well.

Compliance to Rules

It is very important to us that you realize that we will be compliant to rules set for us by your association. We have always had landlords and rules. We understand that you would be doing our team a monumental favor this year and we will be willing to reciprocate at any time. If you have rules for us that we need to know, please communicate with us, we will make sure that our presence in the park is one of enjoyment rather than nuisance. We really appreciate that you are considering helping our team; this has been a really trying year for us so far.