

Melrose Business and Community Association Membership Meeting Minutes for February 14, 2012

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Board Members in attendance: Jennifer Pritchett, Jean Rosebrock, Jeanne Hill, William Chiappini, Marshall Bloom

Approval of Minutes: No minutes at this time; approval was postponed until next meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's Report was provided.

Speaker Amy Van Scoik from Frog Song Organics

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

Amy explained that a CSA program is a partnership between growers and consumers wherein consumers pay to support the farm and in return receive fresh produce each week during the growing season. The goal is to provide locally grown fresh, organic produce. See included handout from Amy for details. In addition, Frog Song Organics will have a Field Day Festival on April 29, 2012. The public is invited.

New Business

Open forum on Melrose Community Farmers Market (MCFM)

After discussion, Marshall Bloom made a motion that MBCA support Bob Bird as Interim Manager of the MCFM; that Nancy Dale oversee an election by those directly involved with the MCFM (i.e. the vendors) of who they would like to manage the MCFM; and that elected person, pending approval of the Board of Historic Melrose, Inc. (HMI), and the District 4 Representative to Putnam County Parks and Recreation, would then run the MCFM for an as yet undetermined period of time. It was suggested that Amy Van Scoik serve as consultant to the elected manager. The motion was seconded, voted on and approved. **Please note that it was recognized and stated that MBCA has no decision-making authority over the MCFM. The MBCA is the organization offering a platform and open forum for local citizens and participants in the MCFM to be able to plan the continuance and direction of leadership for the MCFM.* Amy requested the current rules for market vendors and general park use. She also spoke in support of the market and any new manager, and suggested a community meeting before the final decision is made regarding an elected manager. Judy McLaren gave an outline of vendor fees, regulations and expectations. Jeff Knee will contact the Greathouse Butterfly Farm about the Wings Of Spring Festival.

It was noted that a memorial for Ed Sherwood will be held at Heritage Park on Saturday, February 18, 2012, at 2:00pm.

Also noted: Heritage Park is hosting a free concert by 3rd Stone Band at 5:00pm on Friday, February 17, 2012. The band will move to Shake Rag Art and Culture Center at 7:00pm.

Old Business

Christine Louton, Director, Transportation Task Force

Christine explained the current transportation issues in the 4-county area. She noted that Clay Transit is building a new line that will go from Keystone Heights to Putnam Hall to Melrose to Gainesville. The Transportation Disabled (TD) Committee is applying for federal and state grants to improve transportation availability in the Lake Santa Fe area. The committee is currently assessing the community's transportation needs. See included handout for details.

Committee Reports

Marshall Bloom, Membership Committee

Marshall noted that the committee is focusing on getting dues from current members, and additionally on bringing in new members.

Melrose Bay Park, William Chiappini

William announced that Gainesville Area Rowers (GAR) is operating out of the park and paying for the Porta-Potty. GAR is also keeping the park neat by picking up trash. A work day is scheduled for March 17, 2012, to clean up the park for the Lake Festival on March 31, 2012; GAR will participate.

Jennifer noted that Melrose is on Alachua County's multi-use improvement list for a sidewalk extension from the boat ramp to the park.

Felicity announced a political rally for local candidates to be held at Heritage Park on Saturday, July 21, 2012.

Jennifer reminded everyone that the next membership meeting is March 13, 2012, at 11:30am in the Homemakers Club.

The meeting adjourned.

Jean Rosebrock, Secretary