

Melrose Business and Community Association Membership Meeting Minutes For June 12, 2012

Welcome: President Jennifer Pritchett opened the meeting at 11:46am.

Board members present: Jennifer Pritchett, Jean Rosebrock, William Chiappini, Rebeca Richardson, Chris Carson, Badger Moring

Member-Go-Round: Each member was allowed one minute to introduce him or herself and briefly describe his or her business or interest.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of minutes: Jean presented minutes for May; they were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Rebeca presented the report and it was approved (in Rebeca's absence).

Old Business

Business EXPO (July 21, 2012)

Rhonda Hamilton submitted an application template to be used for EXPO vendors, and will distribute applications to her staff at Lake Area Physical Therapy. Paul Kruger noted that the space at the Melrose Senior Community Center (MSCC) needs to be measured, including an 'overflow' area on the screened porch.

MBCA 30th Anniversary Celebration

It was decided that this event will showcase local food, wine and organic producers.

New Business

July 4th Boat Parade

It was noted that volunteers are needed to organize this event. It was stated that flyers will be posted around Melrose informing the public of the 11am start time and the counter-clockwise parade direction.

Gaye Esperson – Putnam County Blueways

Gaye informed us that ultimately a bike path will stretch from Lake Butler to St. Augustine. She encouraged residents to approach county commissions for additional bike and multi-use paths. She noted that these trails could connect Keystone Heights to the Hawthorne Trail, and that the Hawthorne Trail will be extended to SR21.

Melrose Bay Park (MBP)

Jennifer relayed her discussion with Sandy McGee; the groundcover project is on hold due to the camphor tree spanning 2 properties. At this time, Jennifer also thanked Walter Cole for mowing the park, and noted that volunteers have been removing trash and opening and closing the park.

Visitor's Guide to Melrose

Jennifer stated her desire to include this in the July 'Inn Crowd' membership meeting.

Small Business Development in a Small Town – Cheryl Lynch, Business Analyst

Cheryl explained that her office assists with starting, selling, growing and financing small businesses. She noted that this service is free to the public, and all exchanges are confidential. She stated that she holds workshops covering various aspects of small business ownership. For more information, see the included handout package.

Christine Louton noted that transportation meetings are now held from 2pm-4pm after MBCA membership meetings.

Jennifer reconfirmed the following MBCA membership meeting agenda: August – Local Organic Produce; September – Local Youth Programs; October – MBCA elections and evening meeting cookout at MBP; November – preparation for 30th Anniversary Celebration and holiday events; December – resolving outstanding issues of 2012. For the October meeting, Jennifer noted that a barbecue vendor is arranged and local politicians will be invited. Lourdes, Betty, Felicity and Jean volunteered to help with the October meeting. We were reminded that the Christmas parade and festival will be on December 8. Additionally, Jennifer stated that Jo Harbin indicated interest in joining the effort to extend a sidewalk from Keystone Heights High School (KHHS) to Melrose, and noted that it will be a multi-county effort.

It was noted that Putnam County wants to add a bike lane to SR100, and volunteers are needed to advance the idea. Also noted: a sidewalk from KHHS to Santa Fe College is approved and will finish by the end of 2013. Rhonda will contact Bradford County (via the Northeast Florida Chamber of Commerce) to encourage their support of the project.

Jennifer confirmed the next membership meeting for July 10, 2012, at Bellamy Road Gallery, starting at 5:45pm.

The meeting adjourned.

Jean Rosebrock, Secretary