

MBCA Membership Meeting
11:30 AM, January 14, 2014
Homemakers Club

1. 11:30 AM - 12:10 PM: informal lunch and discussions with fellow attendees, with sign-in sheet passed around to all.

2. 12:10 PM: Gavel turned over from outgoing interim president Marshall Bloom, to new MBCA president Joe Rush set to music and applause. Joe introduces himself and asks us to ponder the following for MBCA:

- What is MBCA? (for us to define);
- Who do we interact with?
- How do we coordinate activities with ourselves and others?

Confirms future member meetings will be "2nd Tuesdays" at 11:30 unless TBA. Board meets "1st Tuesdays" at 3:00. Says the board met and discussed loose ends, such as Plum Creek presentation for February will be today due to Marshall's contacts already. Joe says a previous meeting at the Mossman House discussed how to coordinate a community calendar among all the local groups' events. He organizes a standard procedure for meeting agendas and minutes to be half-written prior to meetings; use of a visual aid to write meeting topics as they happen (to help late-comers see what they missed and catch up); emails should include agendas and calendar; MBCA needs committees to focus on special concerns and report back to board/members.

- What does MBCA do?

- "Melrose 4"
- Businesses (local biz, galleries, farmers, bank, etc)
 - Community (seniors, churches, schools, families, etc)
 - Association (environment, parks, bike paths, transportation, etc)
 - Other orgs (HMI, SFLDA, MBPOA, etc).

Joe shows t-shirt given him with "Melrose VI" on front, and "village idiot" on back.

3. Announcements - Vice. Pres. Deb Massie confirms MBCA sent a "thank you" bouquet and gifts to the M&S Bank employees for helping with public Christmas lights.

-Greathouse Butterfly Farm's "Festivus" is Saturday, March 29th, 10am-5pm, \$5.00 tickets, and they still seek additional vendors and artists to participate (free of charge); event will have food including a gluten-free meal.

-Map from The Melrose Alert was enlarged and passed around for attendees to add their business or home locations to.

-Jennifer Pritchett reported on "calendar committee" to unify and coordinate varied Melrose arts events on one site, set to meet again Sat., Jan 25th, 2pm at Melrose Hall.

-Gallery 26 is moving on and will be renamed Melrose Hall with music concerts. Artists will use Mossman House. Jennifer P and Jo Harben plan next big event as Mardi Gras, March 1st. On April 26th will be Gumbo Limbo cajun/zydeco concert and dance.

-Rebeca Richardson says the United Way will provide free tax prep help at Senior Community Center on Mondays during Jan. 27th thru April 7th (noon, to confirm).

-Karen V. of Gallery 26 says "Bees by the Bay" event set for Sat. Feb. 1st, 10am-4pm and will present expert speakers and demos on bees, making honey, food & drinks, wildflowers, vendors (later a concert by "Killer Bs" 8-11pm, \$10 tickets at The Hall).

-Jill McGuire of Santa Fe Lake Dwellers mentioned upcoming Alachua County Commission meeting on Rural Clusters and Melrose "special area plan" status to protect unique rural communities such as Melrose, this Friday at 3:30pm at County Planning offices on S. Main Street. Jill also said there is no Lake Fest planned this year.

-Jean H. spoke of buying old BellamyRoad gallery building for future use as Shake Rag Arts & Culture Center, for coffee talks, music, art, poetry events (1st opens Feb. 5th, 11am-3pm - and "4th Annual Valentines").

4. Guest speaker Rose Fagler of Plum Creek gave comprehensive presentation of the company's land use agenda for eastern Alachua County, and reviewed the two-year process of community input called "Envision Alachua." She answered questions at the end especially how Melrose may or may not be affected, how much land would be preserved, and how the economically depressed Hawthorne Road corridor could become a future magnet for "smart growth" focused on UF agricultural research and new industry, with workers who live near work and/or bus-commute from Gainesville and Hawthorne.

Fagler will next make a bigger presentation Fri., Jan. 31st at the Senior Center.

Meeting ended at 1:30 PM.