

**MBCA Monthly General Meeting
Minutes
March 10 2015
Location: the DreamCenter (Macc)**

Officers Present: Joe Rush, Deborah Massie, Marshall Bloom
Meeting called to order 5:44PM

Deb Massie presents membership update, no new members, 40 members paid

Linda Kemp presents update on Plein Air Art Fest- 30 Painters from Melrose Bay and 15 painters from Gallery 26 are participating. March 21st is the big Gala, please spread the word.

Deb Massie thanks Angie and Tom Sapp at the Melrose Dream Center for hosting tonight's mtg. Reminds members that the Dream Center is a faith based youth center with regular programs on Thursday night. The hall is also available for weddings and events.

Dave highlights April Fools Day "Prairie Home Companion Over the Top" at 8pm April 1st. Location: The Dream Center /Macc. \$10 at the door, proceeds to Melrose Public Library.

Jennifer reminds members of her Yoga classes at the Homemakers Club. Thursday at 6pm, Tuesday at 9am

Joe Rush presents an overview of a CRA (Community Redevelopment Area) that could give Melrose the opportunity to keep incremental (new) property tax dollars and spend in Melrose.

Required: Robust CRA board that will do the work, gather info and make decisions in the community's best interest. The CRA must be approved by the county(s), there is much work to be done.

Deb makes a brief statement about the pending Dollar General store on SR 21. Discussion ensues regarding pros/cons, many members offered opinions. A list was circulated for names/contact info for those members who want to review such new construction with officials in Palatka. The issue of new Dollar General is targeted for discussion at the April 8th Planning Commission Mtg in Palatka.

Jill McGuire brings up the "special area plan" that was put on "hold" when Plum Creek came into the picture. Jill reviews how "special area plans" can help rural clusters control development and cites Micanopy as an example. Discussion ensues regarding guidance and funds to support an arts district (352arts.org)

Tim Parker from Putnam County presents an overview of CRAs and TIF (Tax

Incremental Financing) and how these entities have helped Palatka to improve certain neighborhoods with special emphasis on historic preservation. Tim shows many examples of significant improvements made to residential and commercial buildings using locally controlled TIF funds. This must be implemented before 2016 if Melrose is going to control and benefit from new development.

No new business , meeting is adjourned at 6:30PM.

minutes submitted by Stasia Rudolph