

MBCA General Meeting Minutes
January 12 2016
Location: Homemaker's Club Melrose

Officers Attending: Joe Rush, Deb Massie, Christine Louton, Linda Kemp, Stasia Rudolph

Approx 30 other citizens in attendance

President Joe Rush calls meeting to order at 12:01PM

Deb Massie introduces the 2016 officers for MBCA: President Joe Rush, VP Deb Massie, Treasurer Rebeca Gamble (not present), Secretary Stasia Rudolph, and Directors: Christine Louton, Linda Kemp, Tim Parker, and Tommie Sapp. Deb then leads a "round robin" where each attending member introduces themselves and talks about their contribution to Melrose.

Highlights include:

Crystal Lacroix is expanding "stone and bone" re-sale boutique.

Angie/Trey attend from Century 21 Realty

Cate Miller's BodyFit Center

Doris Neighbors' "Coffee Talk" every Wednesday

Pastor Paul "Pac 'a Sac" program

Deb Massie talks up "membership". President Joe Rush asks attending members what more can we do for the business members? Feedback wanted. Let's start talking about the **B** in the **MBCA**.

Christine Louton provides a report on the status of the standing Four Corners Transportation Committee efforts and passes out a Lake Area Transportation FACT sheet that includes links to transportation websites.

Joe leads discussion to new /old issue of "connectivity" for Tampa and Jax. *Old subject, new fire*. Cate Miller highlights Melrose's history of fighting bad decisions by FDOT regarding highway expansion. Community needs to keep a watchful eye on this issue. Judy emphasizes that Plum Creek and the "connectivity" is related. Joe emphasizes that **county meetings Feb 16 and 18** are super important for attendance. All concerned must attend and wear green to show support for Stand By Our Plan positions, or purple to support a pro-Plum Creek position. Meetings start at 5pm and will be held at East Side High in Gainesville. Discussion moves to the issue of MBCA supporting "Stand by your Plan" as an organization.

Joe makes a motion to publish meeting times and encourage attendance, Marshall seconds.

Motion passes to publish meeting times.

Marshall tells group that meeting schedules will be published in Melrose Grapevine on MelroseFl.com and on MBCA Facebook page and will be "sharable".

Putnam County reps Tax Collector Linda Myers, Clerk of the Courts Tim Smith, and Chief of Emergency and Preparedness Quin Romay are introduced. Quin Romay introduces Joe Clark, Chief of Melrose Volunteer Fire Department. Chief Clark gives history of MVFD challenges with Alachua County. Proposal for fire coverage will be offered tonight at Alachua Board of County Commissioners meeting. Joe makes a plea for counties to work together. Member asks where Alachua Commissioner Ken Cornell is in all this conflict. Discussion continues into subject of insurance liability and onto an appreciation of what fire dept is doing. Members are reminded by Putnam County's Tax Collector, Linda Myers, that your commissioners should be held responsible to resolve the issue.

Deb Massie closes discussion by thanking attendees.

Other business...

AARP is sponsoring tax return assistance at the Senior Center every Monday from 9:00a to 4:00p. Open to anyone; you do not have to be a senior to receive tax assistance.

"Bees by the Bay" 3rd annual festival **February 6th (Saturday)** at the Melrose Heritage Community Park 10-4PM

Meeting adjourned at 1:01PM