

**MBCA General Meeting  
Minutes  
February 9 2016  
Location: HomeMakers Club**

Officers Attending: Joe Rush, Deb Massie, Linda Kemp, Tim Parker, Rebecca Gamble, Marshall Bloom, Stasia Rudolph

Joe convenes the meeting at 12:01PM

Approx 20+ in attendance

Old Business:

Membership drive has begun. Deb reminds attendees that its \$40 for basic membership and if you want to support other causes (beach, fire fund) add \$10. Joe reviews upcoming expenses for the year. Discussion continues regarding attracting new members and Deb recommends we pursue a "membership drive mailing". Linda Kemp offers to help with address compilation. Deb asks Clay Electric rep if Clay will help w/ printing, answer is yes.

**Walter Cole appreciation award.** Joe thanks Walter for his continued service in maintaining the beach. Joe presents Walter with a plaque.

S Pieczenik highlights his conversation w/ Commissioner Riddick regarding trash along SR 21. Commissioner Riddick and Sheriff are beefing up patrols regarding littering, fines issued. Discussion continues to include "Keep Putnam Beautiful" event, no date has been set as of yet.

Joe begins discussion regarding volunteer beach patrol and the design for MBCA volunteer T-shirts. Plan is to give a T-shirt to those who volunteer so they can be identified when they are patrolling/greeting. Fran offers the idea of a patch that can be sewn on a shirt of your choice. Linda highlights using "buttons" to id volunteers. Joe moves discussion along the subject of the T-shirts promoting local businesses.

Joe introduces guest speakers:

**Jason Reeves-** Melrose Elementary School Principle. Jason give a brief overview of his professional career and his Melrose roots. Jason thanks the Melrose community for being supportive. He highlights some successes:

- Keystone Rotary Club gave the school \$1000.
- Pac a Sac feeds 30 kids every weekend
- Music Teacher was hired and in addition to music curriculum there will soon be an after school program.
- Melrose High School alumni helped to obtain a historical designation for the school, sign coming soon.

- **New project** suggested by Phil Robinson: Paint the Gym!, Will cost \$8K, HMI is helping to raise money.

**Barbara Franklin**- Keystone/Lakes Region Business Assoc

- sponsors monthly luncheons w/ business members
- hosts 4 Mixers a year
- emphasis on keeping business within the community
- starting a FB page to promote local events

**Joe Snodgrass**- candidate for State Rep district 19

- big issues: environment protection and public education
- water is a critical issue for the future
- emphasis on Grass Roots

Fran Rosanno reminds group that it is important to support like-minded candidates even if they are not in your voting district. We need to stick together to defeat big money interests.

Joe reminds everyone about the two county commission meetings to support **Stand by our Plan** against Plum Creek. 16th and 18th 5pm at East Side High. Where **green** if you support Stand by our Plan.

Deb highlights new pedestrian signs and discussion moves to adding a cross-walk. At this time we do not have enough traffic according to DOT officials.

Deb reminds all to boycott Dollar General.

Deb brings up farmers market and dwindling vendor count. Deb suggests adding a flea market component to drive more traffic. Judy MacLaren suggests that MBCA could sponsor such an event 4 times a year.

C.J. from Library highlights the "Heart of Palm" book discussion taking place on Wednesday Feb 10th.

General discussion moves to March MBCA general meeting to be held in evening at Dream Center. Joe suggests that we may move it to March 11 (friday) and make it a Spring Social.

Two other points brought up by members present:

Alachua Fire Dept issue is still important, send an email to commissioners.

Fran offered that Fraud Protection for Seniors might be a good presentation for an upcoming meeting. Deb will pursue.

No further business

Joe adjourns the meeting at 1PM.

*minutes submitted by S Rudolph*