

## **Melrose Business and Community Association Membership Meeting Minutes For April 10, 2012**

**Welcome:** President Jennifer Pritchett opened the meeting at 11:45am.

**Board members in attendance:** Jennifer Pritchett, Rebeca Richardson, Jean Rosebrock, William Chiappini, Marshall Bloom, Chris Carson

**Intro of members present:** Each member was allowed one minute to introduce him/herself and promote his/her business or activity.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Approval of minutes:** Presentation of the March membership meeting minutes was postponed until the May membership meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Rebeca provided the current Treasurer's report.

### **Business**

#### **Melrose Spring Fling**

Bob Bird announced the Spring Fling, to be held on April 28, 2012, from 10:00am to 2:00pm at Heritage Park. Greathouse Butterfly Farm will have a booth. The festival is aimed at children. For additional details, see the included handout.

#### **Melrose Bay Park (MBP) – Florida statute of protection**

MBCA need not insure MBP, and has no liability concerning the park, per Florida statute 375.251.

### **Speakers**

#### **Jackie Host, President, Lake Area Water Alliance**

Jackie stated that this area is currently in a 120-year drought, but aside from drought conditions, commercial pumping is a big contributing factor in the lack of water in the lake region, the Suwannee river region and south Florida. Also, Jacksonville Electric Agency (JEA) has poor reclamation practices, discarding much of their water into the St. Johns River. Jackie produced a Folio Weekly article on "Water Hogs" and discussed the water restrictions already in place. St. Johns Water Management District (SJRWMD) patrols for water misuse, but their budget and staff were recently drastically reduced. To aid the patrol efforts, they have set up a "snitch hotline" to anonymously report water misuse. Additionally, SJRWMD has implemented a pilot project in Keystone Heights that can be a model for aquifer replenishment and recharging.

#### **Betty Levin Rosenblat and Sandy McGee, Alachua County Environmental Protection Department (ACEPD)**

Betty and Sandy discussed the water quality of Lake Santa Fe, and how runoff from the boat ramp and MBP are affecting it. Sandy reported that University of Florida (UF) Horticulture Professor, Dr. Mark Clark, has indicated that these two properties are ripe for enhancement. MBP beach needs a natural buffer of at least 30 feet to stave runoff. The park also has "problem" plants (such as camphor) that are not native; Betty and Sandy recommend that these be removed and replaced with 400 to 600 native plants. They offered to have this done at no charge. MBCA will have the membership vote on the issue. For additional details, see the included handout. The Board thanked past MBP tenders, and Jeanie, Trey, Michelle, Jean,

Jennifer, Deb and Christine volunteered to tend the park going forward. Jennifer then opened the floor to questions for Betty, Sandy and Jackie. Betty noted that the UF and the UF Extensions have "native yard" programs, and that Bahia grass is a good choice, as there is no need to water it. Collecting rainwater and using gray water to irrigate lawns are environmentally conscious options also. It was stated that Paynes Prairie has Fall and Spring native plant sales at Morningside Nature Center in Gainesville. Jackie reminded us that the water issue should be brought up at the Political Rally in the Park, as the solution will start as a grassroots effort.

A motion was made that the MBCA support ACEPD's research into updating MBP with native plants at MBP. The motion was seconded and passed. Further action will need MBCA approval.

#### **July 10<sup>th</sup> Bellamy Road Evening Meeting**

Times were voted on, and it was agreed that the meeting will go from 5:45pm to 7:15pm. Only snacks and appetizers will be provided. Jennifer suggested holding a Fall membership meeting at MBP.

#### **MBCA Political Rally in the Park, Saturday, July 21, 2012, from 5:00pm to 8:00pm**

Jennifer noted that member volunteers are needed; Burt DeVelle volunteered to help put this together.

#### **MBCA Business Expo, Saturday, July 21, 2012, from 4:00pm to 8:00pm**

This will be held at the Melrose Senior Community Center (MSCC). Paul and Burt volunteered to help put this together.

#### **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary MBCA Mixer and Celebration, Friday, November 16, 2012, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm**

Deb Massie and Christine Louton volunteered to help make this happen.

Jennifer suggested having posters and banners made to advertise big MBCA events, in conjunction with press releases. Paul offered to create the banners at cost.

#### **Committee Reports**

Multi-use Path

This is on the books for Alachua County in 2013.

#### **Additional notes**

The filing of the MBCA state report is in progress.

The MSCC is celebrating its 1-year anniversary on Friday, April 27, 2012, at 6:30pm. Tickets are \$25 per person.

Jennifer reminded us that the next MBCA membership meeting is Tuesday, May 8, 2012, at 11:30am at the Homemakers Club.

The meeting adjourned.

*Jean Rosebrock, Secretary*