

# Melrose Business and Community Association Membership Meeting Minutes For August 14, 2012

**Welcome:** President Jennifer Pritchett opened the meeting at 12:00pm.

**Board Members present:** Jennifer Pritchett, Jean Rosebrock, Badger Moring, Marshall Bloom, Rebeca Richardson, Chris Carson

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Approval of minutes:** Jean provided minutes and they were approved as presented.

**Treasurer's Report:** Rebeca provided the report and it was approved.

## Old Business

### Upcoming Meetings

#### September 11, 2012

MBCA is forming the election ballot for officers.

#### October 9, 2012

MBCA elections will be held. Badger gave an update on the dinner for the meeting: Moring Funeral Home will be arranging all food. The meal will be chicken and sides and will be seven dollars. Proceeds go toward beach sand and parking lot gravel at MBP.

#### November 13, 2012

We will discuss the Christmas parade theme. Parade is December 8, 2012. (Suggestions have been made and will be voted on at the September meeting: Green Christmas or Mayan Christmas.)

### Multi-use Path

Jo Harben gave an update: the path plans are in place and the path project has started.

Sandy McGee gave an update on the MBP wetland buffer project: exotic plants are being removed. She noted the following dates: Tuesday, August 21, 2012, 8:00am the camphor tree will be removed as planned; Wednesday, August 22, 2012, terracing will be installed; Thursday, August 23, 2012, native plants will be put in place and the ramp installed. All days start at 8:00am. She also stated that she needs volunteers for this project.

## New Business

### Grow Local Eat Local

It was explained that consuming locally grown or produced food can ease the drought-caused food crisis and thus, high food prices. Added benefits are food that is better for health and the consumer feels better about knowing where the food came from. Amy van Scoik spoke about Frog Song Organics CSA providing a box of fresh produce each week to members. Bruce Waite spoke about his subsistence farm outside of Melrose and briefly discussed centralizing local produce distribution. Felicity spoke about conserving water while growing grapes for jellies, wines and more. Fabrizio Passalacqua spoke about keeping bees and their role in food production. He noted that his group educates the public on bees and beekeeping. Sandy McGee noted that she provides organically-grown flowers for small events. Bob Bird noted that the farmers market is doing well this Summer, and encouraged producers

and growers to attend. Mr. Schulz discussed his farm between Melrose and Hawthorne that grows mushrooms, fruit and pecans, and noted that he sells these at the farmers market.

#### **Melrose Rural Cluster**

It was stated that the Painter family is requesting expansion of the existing cluster boundaries to include their property to allow for higher-density development.

#### **Public Hearing, August 28, 2012, 5:00pm, Alachua County Commission Building**

The county is scheduled to approve, modify or deny the Painter request. It was mentioned that the Painters have been denied a zoning variance for this in the past, but that such a variance could be a compromise between the community and the Painter family. Joe Rush noted that approval of the request would increase density to one home per half acre. It was stated that this will be discussed at the August 24, 2012, SFLDA meeting.

Deb Massie asked about sprucing up the Melrose sign on SR 26.

Jennifer is researching the possibility of Melrose receiving tax increment funding district benefits.

#### **Committees**

##### **Membership**

Marshall gave an update: it was decided that dues received on or after October 1<sup>st</sup> will apply to the next year.

##### **Transportation**

Christine gave an update: she is joining the Putnam County Community Transportation Coordinators involving the quad-county area.

Leo Lowe noted that a rape aggression defense class for women will be held at Eliam Baptist Church on October 17, 22 and 23. Each session is four hours long. The class is free and women should call 352-374-1800 to sign up.

Jennifer reminded us of upcoming meetings: August 20, 2012, 5:30pm, Homemakers Club (Board); September 11, 2012, 11:30am, Homemakers Club (membership).

The meeting adjourned.

*Jean Rosebrock, Secretary*