

**MBCA General Meeting
Minutes
September 8, 2015
Location: Dream Center**

Officers Present: Joe Rush, Deb Massie, Marshall Bloom, Tim Parker, William Chiappini, Carol Meyer, Stasia Rudolph
approx. 22 people in attendance

Joe calls meeting to order at 5:32PM

Joe makes a motion to approve August minutes (posted on line), Stasia seconds, motion passes.

Christmas Parade Update- Steve Thrift reviews details of upcoming Christmas parade to be held on *December 12*. Last year we had the most entries (37) and more than that becomes challenging regarding road closure. Steve makes a motion to establish this year's theme as "**A Comic Book Christmas**". Joe seconds motion. Motion Passes.

Need a *grand marshall* for Parade, suggestions include: Dr Marshall, Thelma Dampier, Cathy Warren, Badger Mooring, Felicity Trueblood. any other suggestions are welcomed.

Applications will be available at Ameris Bank.

Steve Thrift phone 352-473-7966 or 352-4781123

Discussion ensues regarding filming of parade, Deb will ask David Wilcox concerning same.

Stasia and Steve volunteer to be judges again this year.

Christmas Craft Fair (immediately following parade), Bob Byrd is in charge.

Joe/William Chiappini recap the Labor Day weekend at the Melrose Bay Park. No miscreant behavior issues while park was open BUT equipment was stolen before park was officially "opened to public". Discussion ensues regarding maintenance of park. We need a volunteer to mow grass. In addition, due to high water levels, there may be other maintenance issues to be considered. Deb will contact Lake Area Garden Club regarding some clean up.

Election update- Stasia reviews candidates: Linda Kemp has been nominated, Christine Louton will also accept nomination to director position, but no one has put their hat in the ring for president. Joe will consider a second term if no one else steps up. Joe introduces the idea of a "**Holiday Mixer**" to be held instead of December General Meeting. all agree this is a good idea, details to be discussed.

Joe goes around the room to highlight local businesses- new ones and improved ones.

Ben Cooper- **Cooper's Car Care**- detailing

Crystal LaCroix- **Stone and Bone**- thrift and gift

Michael Bassett- Expanded hours at **Melrose Cafe**- beer and wine soon
Tom Sapp- **Dream Center** is available to rent for events, Angie is an ordained minister and notary. Movie night big success, 1st friday of month, youth center is almost 1 year old.

Laurie Stevens- **Leather and Lace**- unique gifts, flowers

Dave and Joanie Carpenter- holding a **Halloween Auction** to raise funds for Melrose causes.

Joe then asked other attendees to introduce themselves. Including: Christine Louton (local transportation), Ruth Berkelman, Jill McGuire, Judy MacLaren, Tim Parker, Keth Bolum, Chuck Lowry, Marshall Bloom, Carol Meyer, Sharon Watts and Darlene Hinkle (Columnists for Lakes Region Monitor).

Deb provides a traffic update from FDOT.

No further business, meeting adjourns at 6:32PM

minutes submitted by S Rudolph