

MBCA General Meeting Minutes, February 12, 2019

President Joe Rush called the meeting to order at noon.

Joe presented Steve Thrift with a plaque from MBCA to honor his 16 years of service as the chief coordinator of the Merry Melrose Christmas Parade. Steve shared a few words. Joe has volunteered to be successor as coordinator for the 2019 Parade.

Heather Randolph from the Twice Is Nice store spoke about MBCA improving the use of social media to augment membership and community participation. She recommended adding email reminders to get people to visit the Melrose Grapevine and Melrose Alert pages. She also thought we could make better use of the MBCA Facebook page and would like to increase the number of LIKES from its current 313 to 500.

Heather also volunteered to chair the Membership Committee and discussed pricing options, and fundraising. Membership applications were passed around and attendees were encouraged to sign up.

PJ Thran gave an update on the Melrose Community Center. The floor has been replaced and looks lovely. The kitchen upgrades have been delayed and completion is set for about April. They have a committee to work on grant funding, and welcome more members.

Deb Massie mentioned the upcoming Multi-Market Sale for Saturday, March 9th. Proceeds will be going to help fund the Melrose Community Center.

In Rebecca's absence, Joe read the Treasurer's Report. MBCA Balance for end of 2018 was \$2808.00. Balance for the Melrose Bay Park Fund was \$79.03. Joe mentioned that the park maintenance runs about \$1500 per year and issued a call for fund raising ideas. Some ideas put forth included:

- Adding a fee box for donations at the park
- T-shirt sales
- Solicit a donation from Melrose Bay Property Owners Association
- Encourage a paying concession that rents canoes, paddle boards, bicycles, etc.
- Use a volunteer day for park clean-ups. One is schedule for immediately after the March 12th MBCA General Meeting.
- Beach sponsorships with plaques or other signage.

The Melrose Woman's Club announced their 125th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, February 24th from 2-4p. There will be music, exhibits, and a raffle. They have been successful with their grant-writing, and have put in money to make the bathroom ADA compliant.

Tim Parker spoke about the Putnam County Tax Increment Fund (TIF) and told anyone interested in becoming a member of the steering committee to contact him directly.

Leah Lundy, Principal of the Melrose Elementary School introduced herself and thanked the community for the ongoing support.

Aimee Olmstead, Secretary of the Friends of Melrose Elementary School, mentioned the Makers Space project to encourage young inventors and requested support. She brought a sign-up sheet for new members. They want to support science, art, and music at the school in the absence of a music teacher.

Kate Ellison announced a film about phosphate mining will be showing at the Hippodrome Theatre in Gainesville at 7:00p on Saturday, February 16th as part of the Cinema Verde event.

Kate also presented petition applications for getting Medicaid expansion on the next ballot.

Joe made a call for MBCA officers to run for election in October 2019. The President and Secretary will be up for replacement. All Directors At Large will also be up for re-election or replacement.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:00p.

-Minutes submitted by Marshall Bloom