

Melrose Business and Community Association  
Board Meeting Minutes  
May 5, 2021

Meeting called to order by Tom Germano at 6:06 pm. The meeting was held at the Melrose Beach Park.

Board Members present: Pat Ward, Joe Rush, Mandie Jones, Karen Goff, Ruth Berkelman, Rebeca Richardson and Linda Osborne. Members absent: Deb Massie, Mark Scarborough and Olivia Clulow.

**Tom** acknowledged all attendees and thanked them for their interest in the MBCA.

Treasurer's report: **Rebeca Richardson** – April 2021 – Beginning balance: \$4,505.37 (Expenditures – USPS - \$ 72.00 for PO Box; Clay Electric \$10.00; and recurring monthly for Gotta Go \$72.97). Deposits for memberships = \$370.00. Ending Balance = \$4,793.37. **Melrose Bay Park** : Beginning/ending balance of \$386.93.

Minutes for April 7, 2021 – No motion to approve. Suggestion that the number and names of members be part of the secretary's report.

**Pat Ward:** Report on the By-Law revision: Pat thanked the committee for their time and effort. Pat indicated that he would contact and discuss one on one with individuals who had made comments for clarification. After that process, he will meet with the committee for the new revisions. Pat will Submit a clean pdf version via email to board member for voting and then send to general membership for final vote. (attachments for proxy voting, membership application, reimbursement form and nominating form are to be reviewed). Rebeca Richardson was asked to review the reimbursement form to see if adequate for expenditure report and request for reimbursement). Question: should the By-laws include provision for committees and committee chairs.

During the lengthy discussion, Joe Rush indicated that he would like to nominate Mandie Jones as Membership chairman, second by Pat Ward. After questions from Mandie and assurance that others Would assist, Mandie agreed to accept the position. Motion carries.

**Melrose Beach Park:** Joe Rush has paid previously for mowing and general maintenance and proposed That the board contact Cornelius Clayton to contract his services for lawn care (mowing, trimming, raking, etc.) Motion to pay \$100.00 per month through October was withdrawn and an amended motion to pay \$50.00 per two weeks through October. Motion by Joe Rush, second by Ruth Berkelman, Motion carries. Joe will contact Cornelius.

**Ruth Berkelman:** Ruth contacted Alachua County Commissioner, Ken Cornell regarding a request by MBCA for signage to keep motorboats away from the swim beach area. He shared the MBCA request

with Gina Pebbles, Chief of Staff in the County Manager's Office. The MBCA concern was passed to FWC Lieutenant Ricky Justus who contacted Ruth and reported that the only way to have FWC take action to keep boats away from the swim area would be to have a county ordinance or state statute passed similar to the idle speed zone in Melrose Bay. Ruth again contacted the county manager's office. Gina Pebbles is now working with the Alachua County attorney's office to request a county ordinance to assist the MBCA in keeping the swim area safe.

Other issues with swimming area: Fishing when individuals are swimming, fishing from floating dock and boats anchored nearby. Joe added that he is still looking into jetting a pole to secure the dock.

**Christmas Parade:** Tom Germano stated that he had met with Amy Stanley regarding her request to have the Melrose Patriots listed as co-sponsor for this year's parade. Mention was made that it was the Merry Melrose Parade and that Joe Rush has been in charge in previous years and would assume that position for 2021. Comments were made that this should not be a political issue and that any group or organization was welcome to have a float in the parade and an excellent opportunity for MBCA membership drive. Tom Germano stated that he is adamant that the parade and all of MBCA remain non-political. While the Patriots have stated that they have no intention to make it a political event, it is better to leave it as the MBCA Merry Melrose parade

**New Business:**

Mandie Jones is working with Marshall Bloom to update the website and working on a sub-domain. Concerns were removing political articles from the Grapevine and/or should the Grapevine be retired and is MBCA currently paying for the domain.

Tom mentioned that the MBCA strives to be a non-political organization and recent articles in the Grapevine do not serve the Community or the Businesses of Melrose. If the Grapevine is not part of the MBCA, we should have the link removed from the MBCA website. Discussion ensued that with Social Media sites, the Grapevine is probably outdated anyway. No motion was made to remove the Grapevine.

Meeting adjourned: 7:10 pm

Next Board Meeting: June 2, 2021 @ 6:00 pm      Place: TBA

Submitted by: Linda Osborne, secretary