

The regular meeting of the Malvern Area Betterment Association was held in the basement of the Malvern Community Building. It was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Members in attendance were: President Bev Dashner, Secretary Diane Clay, Treasurer Deb Breeding, MinDee Sommerla, Chance Beres, Patty Beres, Ruby Simms, Bill Gilbert, Ed Mulholland, Becky Bell, Chipper Blackman, Monte West, Terry Smith, Claire Thalken, Ethan Richter, Michaela Goodman, Scott and Laura Shehan representing the Donkey Rescue.

Minutes were read. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Deb Breeding and seconded by Patty Beres.

Treasurer's report was as follows: Regular checking \$14781.22, New recreation project \$27,653.04, Gateway to Chaos \$19,117.32. Motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by MinDee Sommerla, seconded by Ruby Simms. Motion Carried.

A report on the Valentines Dinner was given. Income was \$2,245. The bill at Classic Café was \$725. The bill for the music was \$200. The profit was \$1,320. The evening went smoother than last year. There were comments that people really liked the fillets. Some commented the portions served were almost too much. There was lots of help this year which was good.

The 401-403 Buildings progress was discussed. There is no report at this time. Will probably soon be meeting with the architect. The City will be putting out for bids soon.

The Rec Project Report was given. Bids for demolishing the house ends Friday at 4:30 p.m. City owns this property so they are in charge of the demolition. SWIPCO is paying for half. MABA no longer has anything to do with this part of the Rec Project. MABA's next part is to pay for the basketball court. The \$15,000 grant from Mills County Community foundation was discussed. We have received a six month extension to use this grant money. We now have till May 31<sup>st</sup> to use this money. Park Board is not meeting until the end of March. It was discussed if maybe they could meet earlier. The bids have to be accepted. Need to take action so the \$15,000 grant money is not lost. It may be possible to move the basketball court where old garage was on the North. Grant is not for design but for actual work on the project. Bev will see what we need to do.

The JEO/MABA meeting will be on March 13. The steering committee will meet from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Library Annex. The Community will be invited to come with feedback for what they want and what ideas they have from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. MABA has hired JEO to look at everything in the community and come up with a strategic plan. This will help the City of Malvern adopt a Strategic Plan. The Malvern Bank will sponsor the study through MABA.

Ruby Simms gave a report on the Welcome Center. The gym will be unlocked soon. Some projects ahead are a newcomers' packet and a sign placed with hours posted. A welcome packet is being planned. They could be given to realtors to give to new home owners. It was suggested not only to list business and their hours and also to include home-based businesses. We need to put information in about our schools. Doing a new MABA Brochure was discussed. The hours to the Welcome Center are Wednesday thru Friday 10:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

A Gateway of Chaos report was given. Advertisement was discussed. Some possibilities of fund raisers were a zombie walk and a movie night downtown. Making booklets recruiting volunteers to give to Boy Scouts, Glenwood, Tabor and East Mills High Schools. The East Mills High School shop class will be constructing the walls and will probably be willing to help put the walls up. The arrival of a semi-trailer to store materials was discussed. There is a need to store supplies to build walls with as there is not room in the High School to store this. Also discussed was how soon the materials to build the walls would arrive. It takes a week or two to order from Menards. They are giving us the materials at cost. Masonite panels will be used to build new 4X8' walls. There is usable wood at Greg's garage. Kari talked to volunteers from Offutt with at least six volunteers coming to help assemble the walls at the Fairgrounds and they want to be a part of the Haunt. They will have medics and volunteers for security. The price for a used semi-trailer is from \$2500 to \$3000 for one in good shape. Where the trailer will be kept for the storage was discussed. Maybe if parked in a prominent area logos could be put on it. MinDee Sommerla will be looking for Haunt sponsorships. The Haunt committee will need to put together a packet for the sponsors. It was discussed if the haunt people would be interested in doing face painting, kids games or etc. at the Independence Day Celebration.

Independence Day Celebration plans were discussed. It will be on July 12<sup>th</sup> this year. Deb Breeding will organize the carnival games. There could be a dunk tank if an organization can be found to do this. We hope to have motor cycle soccer games late in the

afternoon. Pony rides will be in the show ring. Southwest Iowa Animal Coalition will bring animals to Heritage Park and then move to the Fair Grounds. The Coalition gets great press coverage so this could help with the advertisement. There will be the Race the Trace again by the Friends of the Library. The Parade will be at 11:00 a.m. We're checking on the Cheerleaders doing a breakfast again. The fishing contest will go if there is enough water in the pond. Gates at the Fair Grounds will open at Noon. Shelby Sommerla will do the concession stand. We will have Auto Push Ball, blowups for the kids again, and Kids games. MinDee will check with Post Prom to see if they want to do a supper again.

The Membership report was given by Deb Breeding. The flyers have gone out. Initially right after there was a lot of memberships that came in. If someone was a member last year and not joined yet they were billed.

The Planters/Art on Main Street nodes was discussed. Will be doing work on this later in the month. Weather has hindered the progress. A \$4,000 Grant for beautification of Main St. corners has been received from the Costello Fund at Mills County Endowment

The Wabash Trace exercise equipment has been installed near the Depot. Signs will be put up this Spring. Jack May is not charging us for this work of placing the exercise equipment. Terry Smith was also thanked for his help. We appreciated it.

Possible Ribbon Cuttings was discussed. The Chiropractor is planning an open house and we will do a Ribbon Cutting at that time. There is a new pet grooming business. We will have a Ribbon Cutting at the end of May at the Donkey Rescue. Newman Appliance has begun his new business.

The Scholarship MABA offers at the East Mills High School was discussed. It is for youth enrolled in school and involved with MABA. Have offered the scholarship for three years and no one has applied.

The school situation was discussed. The School Board has hired an evaluation team to do a study and make suggestions. The community needs to put our best foot forward. Out of the 90 students who open enroll out there are 78 of them who never stepped in the door of our schools.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:25 pm.