

Official MABA Minutes – September 8, 2013

The regular meeting of the Malvern Area Betterment Association was held at the Library Annex and was called to order at 5:00 p.m. on September 8, 2013. Members in attendance were: President Bev Dashner, Vice President Cheryl Jones, Secretary Diane Clay, Treasurer Patty Beres, Fred Moreau, Amy Smith, Deb Breeding, Ruby Simms, Tom Mulholland, MinDee Sommerla, Gary Jones, Bonnie Pierce, Greg Pierce, Zack Jones, Phyllis Bruce, Sharon Chickering, Allan Hall, Tim Jackson, Lynn Christensen.

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

Treasurer's report: Regular checking \$7,790.85, New recreation project \$32,349.04, Gateway to Chaos \$11,195.77, Malvern Bucks \$245. Motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Mindee Sommerla, seconded by Amy Smith. Motion Carried.

The Wabash Trace Marathon is September 14th. Bus from Shenandoah will arrive at 6:15 a.m. The East Mills High School will be open at this time. Notices to owners on the runner's route in town have been hand delivered. Water stations are taken care of. Businesses were thanked that put things in the Welcome Packet's. There will be a total of 368 runners. There will be 78 the full marathon and 18 teams. Bev Dashner will take pictures and Patty Beres will get the speaker system there.

Cheryl Jones gave an update on the En Plein Air. The artist reception will be at the Art Church at 6:30p.m. They will have pulled pork sandwiches. Beer Garden application will be made at the next Council meeting by Excuses Bar owner. Art judging will be done in the lower floor of the Community Building. Bounce House was discussed. It was suggested getting sponsors to buy paintings. First day, Saturday, artists paint in town. Second day, Sunday, artists can paint anywhere. Artists register at Classic Café.

607 Prospect is still owned by MABA. There are items left in the garage and house that could be sold. The property transfer will be in the next two weeks so we need to get the items we can sell out before that. The shed and garage could be sold. Bev will let helpers know when we will meet to determine what items can be sold at auction.

The Malvern Recreation Park Project update was given by Bev. Two plans were presented to the Park Board. Plan A is a scaled down version. Yellow house area will be the playground area. Basketball area would be raised up to parking lot level. Parking would be added on North and East sides. Alley would be closed north of Seikmans. This plan did not address a new pool. Plan B proposed the pool to be moved to where parking lot is now. It would run North and South. North of pool would be the multi-sport court. Playground area could be phase one since it is the same in both plans. Park Board made no decisions yet. MABA has only committed to raise \$100,000 for basketball court and playground.

Gateway to Chaos is going well. Director Kari is doing an awesome job. MABA's part will be tickets, gate keeper and concessions. A volunteer sheet was passed around. It will be open every Saturday Night in October and the last two Friday nights. Grace Lynn Brotherton has volunteered to be the EMT on duty. Firefighters will help with security

Festival of Trees update was given by Patty Beres and Mary Poort, whom are the co-leaders. Vendor registrations are coming in. There will be no play by the church this year so maybe there could be a dance or maybe a variety show. They will be asking 4-H Clubs to do kids' activities.

Having the Wabash Depot become functional building was discussed. It would need plumbing and electricity. It could be used for showers and restrooms for people on the Trace to make the bicyclists feel welcome if it was fixed up.

Welcome Center is no longer in the basement of the Library. It is in a temporary location at the site of Gateway of Chaos. The option of using the Extension Office was discussed. Their office hours wouldn't work for MABA's purpose. The East Mills Building across from the Library was toured by the MABA Board. Ownership of the building was discussed. The two doors in front are not entirely handicap accessible. Maybe we could rent office & storage space to EMAYS. The option of a new building to house both a welcome center and Gateway of Chaos was discussed. A couple of properties as possibilities were discussed. An Astro building that is 48' by 54' would be \$30,000 not including electricity or plumbing. A sheet with bids for three different size building was presented. If we purchased a building in the winter time there would be a substantial discount. It was discussed that Greg and Cheryl Jones own property along Main Street could be available to purchase.

Jay Burdic presented the option of a shared new MABA building so Methodist Physicians Clinic could expand. This building would be south of the present Clinic between Mulholland's and the present medical building. This could be done with a USDA loan but it has to come thru a non-profit organization. It would be a 40 year loan. The new building would be 50 feet wide and 30 or 40 feet deep. Next ten years Methodist Clinic would probably pay rent to make the payment. If Dr. Baer retires in ten years so there would be no guarantee there would be a new doctor. Jay will explore other funding options.

Jackson informed MABA the North Bay is available on his property for \$300 a month and it has a bathroom.

The Mills Masquers are waiting to hear from their Board to see if they are interested in helping with Gateway of Chaos.

On September 11th volunteers representing MABA will be doing a walk ability survey to see what sidewalks may not be handicap accessible as part of a Mills County Public Health grant.

Bev has written a Mills County Community Foundation grant application for decorative planters and/or art to be used on the corner nodes of Main Street for \$5000.

After discussion on what has been done in the past Zack Jones made a motion that MABA buy a dinner for the East Mills Football players on a Thursday before a game. There are 38 players and 5 coaches. Greg Jones seconded. Motion carried.

Bev Dashner was thanked for informing so many about the Iowa Lieutenant Governor coming to Mulhollands. There was a very good turnout to support Tom and welcome her.

MABA events were put on the East Mills School calendar in the months our events happen in September, October, December, January and July.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.