

On Thursday, January 4 the Malvern Area Business Association met at the Malvern Library at 6:30pm. Twenty-three members of the community were in attendance including board members Bonnie Pierce, Cheryl Jones, Tiffany Yakes-Starr, Lura Shehan, Gary Jones and Bruce Breeding.

The December Secretary's report was discussed. Bruce Breeding moved to approve the minutes as presented and the motion was seconded by Allan Hall. Motion was approved by majority of the group. The Treasurer's report was also discussed. A motion to approve was given by Deborah Breeding, with the second by Cheryl Jones. This motion was also approved.

[Cheryl Jones shared with the group information pertaining to the upcoming Valentine's Day dinner/fundraiser on Sunday, February 12 at 6:00 at The Classic Cafe.](#) Jones stated that she currently has enough volunteers to help with the night. The evening will include an opportunity for pictures, a magician and door prizes. MABA will purchase door prizes from Mulhollands Grocery and Classic Cafe. The evening will also include recognition of a special guest. Tiffany Yakes-Starr will send a request to other area businesses requesting donations for additional prizes. Last year this event made almost \$1600.00.

Deb Breeding presented on the Iowa Great Places Grant. Updates were given on the mural that will be on the side of Mulholland's Grocery, directional signage, metal tree sculptures, concrete curbing and the shade screen for Heritage Park. D. Breeding also shared that she had submitted the annual report to Iowa Great Places.

Bev Dashner discussed the upcoming Grant writing schedule for 2017. The Mills County Foundation grant is due in February and MABA will be requesting money to be used for the Community Building for insulation and updating the electrical wiring upstairs. The Costello Grant is due sometime in the fall. Jay Burdic shared his vision with the group for a ten year plan to use the money from this grant. He suggests that a community committee is created to develop this plan so that real impact can be made with the money from the grant.

Current insurance coverage was discussed and debate over whether MABA needed to keep same coverage. Current cost is \$3,000.00 per year. More details were needed before a decision could be made.

There was discussion regarding a membership campaign and dues. Current dues are \$20.00 for an individual, \$35.00 for a couple, \$50.00 for a business and \$10.00 for a student. Mike Blackburn motioned that dues stay the same, Stacy Means seconds. Motion passed. Mary Beth Trembley will be the membership committee chair. A flyer will be created to distribute in the Malvern Bank's newsletter and a display will be at the Valentine's dinner.

It was discovered that the chairs and umbrellas used for the Music in the Park were stolen. Items that need to be replaced are 7 lawn chairs, one canopy for the band, 10 umbrellas and 2 trash cans. Allan Hall motioned to spend up to \$700.00, this was seconded by Bev Dashner. Motion was passed.

Gateway of Chaos was discussed by director Claire. In 2016, 973 people went through the haunt. A total of 37 people helped with the set up and the actual event itself, including 5 adults. A total of \$6,000.00 was spent putting on the event, and they made \$2,100.00. A discussion centered around with the effort was worth the reward. Claire will reach out to the high school and see if there a way to create a partnership from other areas in Malvern.

A lengthy discussion was had regarding 4th of July Fireworks. The organization that normally provides these is no longer in business. A fireworks committee was created consisting of Gary Jones, Jay Burdic and Mike Blackburn. If unable to have fireworks on the 4th of July, the Saturday before or after would be best option.

Conversation turned to events for 2017. A more in depth conversation will be held at the February meeting but events include the annual Valentine's Day dinner, a Memorial Day lunch, pool parties and block party, the Wabash Marathon, Gateway of Chaos, Veteran's Day lunch, Lantern Launch and Festival of Trees. Attendees were asked to be thinking of event ideas for discussion at next meeting.

Attendees were also asked to start thinking about long range vision ideas for Malvern for the February meeting. Upcoming meetings will be advertised on the bank marquee, on Facebook and in the Malvern newspaper. The next meeting will be Thursday, February 2 at 6:30 at the Malvern Library.