

Official MABA Minutes – January 5, 2014

The regular meeting of the Malvern Area Betterment Association was held at the Library Annex. It was called to order at 4:00 pm on January 5, 2014. Members in attendance were: President Bev Dashner, Acting Secretary Deb Breeding, Treasurer Patty Beres, MinDee Sommerla, Kate Phelps, Ed Mulholland, Cheryl Jones, Greg Jones, Chance Beres, Ruby Simms, Greg Pierce, Bonnie Pierce, Mike Blackburn and Zack Jones.

Minutes were read. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Greg Jones and seconded by Kate Phelps.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Regular account \$17,049.34, New Recreational Project \$27,653.04, GOC \$19,392.00 and Malvern Bucks \$775.00. Motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Deb Breeding and seconded by MinDee Sommerla. Motion carried.

FESTIVAL OF TREES – Treasurer reported a loss of approx. \$30. Regarding the evening activities of Dinner, music and Bingo MinDee felt we should advertise more in the future and Mike Blackburn suggested we start the dinner an hour earlier to up the attendance. There was discussion about asking, in the future, those organizations participating who made a profit for a donation to help with the advertising cost.

Gateway of Chaos – There needs to be some hard decisions to be made. Bev spoke to the Planning and Zoning Director for Mills County. We should have an easier time with construction since the County classifies what we will have as stage props. They will require all surfaces to have a fire retardant paint. We could use 2x2's and Masonite for construction. We will be starting from scratch since all the dry wall was damaged during the move. We will need to get more guidelines on the construction. The Haunt will need to be inspected and a permit given to operate. Spencer is working on the layout. Bev asked our thoughts on size of the haunt larger or smaller, 1 or 2 and about budget. BIG question is who is going to direct and man the haunt. Do we pay someone again this year for directing and do we hire someone to do the construction? Ethan Richter may be co-director. Bev will call a special meeting with those potentially involved to get some answers to these and other questions about the future of the haunt.

401-403 Main St. – Kate, Courtney and Pete meet with all the business owners to go over their priorities. Bids will go out in April, with construction starting this summer. 401-403 will have a center staircase to have access for 4 apartments on the second floor. Questions were raised about the dual staircase. The buildings will have floors as part of the project. They are needed to stabilize the façade work. The suggestion was made to write a grant through Iowa West to help defer the cost of the remodel. MABA could write the grant but would need to do it closer to the end of the project. We could ask for \$30,000 to \$40,000 would be the maximum.

Rec Project - Mike Blackburn spoke about attending the next Park Board meeting in February. He would like MABA to take over the project, with several Park Board members involved. We have \$15,000 we could lose if not used by spring which is unacceptable. Mike's suggestion is to move forward starting with the basketball court and use the \$15,000 for the construction. The project should be done in phases, putting the basketball court where the yellow house is currently. Mike also talked about using Rich Maskie's landscape architect on the project. More decisions will be made after the Park Board meeting.

Welcome Center – Ruby has a journal for visitors. 1 woman came in needing medical help and Ruby drove her to the clinic. She also had to open the building for the Vets Meeting. The Building Board meeting is on 1/27 and Bev wants to be on the agenda to talk about signage for the building. She has been in contact with the sign designer and discussed some of our concerns and changes we'd like to see. Bev will report the cost to the group before writing the grant.

MCCF Committee - No progress to report.

Valentine's Dinner – The dinner is set for Feb. 9th. The posters are ready as soon as the menu is set. Cello Dave is coming to perform. Cheryl asked if we want door prizes again this year and Bonnie volunteered to handle them. Bev suggested asking the Glenwood and Red Oak Chambers if they want to put something together. Cheryl asked for volunteers to serve, clean up and wash dishes. Deb brought up the need for another person behind the bar to help Leslie as she was swamped last year. Cheryl will get flyers to the bank and email past attendees. She did not feel we needed to advertise in the paper. She will also post the event on the social media websites.

Independence Day Celebration – Date set for July 12th. MinDee is hearing positive feedback about the later date. A planning meeting date will be set for the next couple of months.

Policy and Procedures – Board received the manual via email. Bev commended Fred's work. The Board may need to have a separate meeting to discuss and make any changes.

Membership Mailer – Kate will ask Joe Designer and Brian for bids for the flyers. A deadline for mailing the flyers is set for the end of January.

MISC – Meeting time change was discussed 4 PM versus 5PM. Most would like to have it be the same time no matter the season. A vote was taken and 4PM was the winner.

MABA Party – Due to the bitter cold weather forecasted the date was changed to January 12th

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm