

MACOMB BEAUTIFUL ASSOCIATION

Wednesday, September 19, 2018

Macomb Beautiful Association met at the Old Dairy meeting room on September 19th with 27 members and two guests present. We welcomed a Teresa Kepple as a new member and also her business, beYoutiful Skin Care Studio, as a new business member. Deb McDaniel was welcomed as a guest.

President Penny Yunker introduced Jock Hedblade, the Director of Macomb Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. Jock is a native of Macomb who was drawn back here to live and work mainly due to the appeal of small town living. His vision is to promote Macomb and McDonough County as a tourist destination all year round and not only for special events. The Bureau is applying for "Looking for Lincoln" status which identifies historic sites that Lincoln visited and lived. He hopes to capitalize on Lincoln's time in Macomb especially during one such visit which shaped his position on slavery. Macomb was also the home of Lizzie Magie who invented the original Monopoly game. Ideas to promote that story include making the downtown square into a Monopoly game. This in turn would bring more foot traffic to the downtown businesses. For more information you may find their new updated website at makeitmacomb.com.

BUSINESS MEETING:

Minutes: Secretary Barb Knox presented the minutes from the April meeting. Marilyn Saliars made a motion to approve, Maureen Marx seconded, and the motion carried. Appreciation was extended to Sara Gibson for her excellent work promoting MBA on our Facebook page.

Treasurer: Penny presented the treasurer's report which shows a cash balance of \$8,965.52.

Membership: Penny thanked Janice Welsch, Kay Hill, Nancy Jones and Sara Gibson for their help on the membership committee collecting dues from members and businesses. To date we have 79 paid memberships of individuals and families, 94 paid business memberships, and extra cash contributions which total \$2,790.

Nominating Committee: Rosemary Aten presented the slate of officers for 2019. They are: President- Barb Knox, 1st VP-John Looman, 2nd VP-Sharon Lindahl, Treasurer, Penny Yunker, and Co-Secretaries- Marilyn Pastorelli and Maureen Marx.

Fundraising: Sharon Lindahl announced that the Fall Card Party will be held Thursday, November 8th at 1:00 p.m. at the Macomb Country Club. Dessert will be served and tickets are \$15.

Beautification Awards Reception: Penny reported that the reception was very well received with nearly 50 people attending the event at the WCIAC. After the awards ceremony emceed by John Hallwas, wine and appetizers were served by the committee of Penny, Marcia Lucas, Garnette Hallwas, and Sandy Nelson. She thanked Dennis Danowski for taking photos during the event. Due to the success of this location with this set up, we will plan to continue this format in the earlier date of September next year.

Gardens, Train Station, Tree Planting: Everything has looked very nice all summer long and we appreciated all those who volunteered to provide such a lovely landscape to Macomb. We are still looking for someone to assume responsibility for the north side of the courthouse. The Master Gardeners have been approached but have not accepted at this time. Penny presented the plaques created to honor Roger Barclay's donations of trees in Chandler Park which was paid for by contributions from MBA members. It was decided to donate the \$500 memorial contribution from the Barclay family to the Macomb City Tree Board to plant more trees in the city. We will plan an event to publicize this generous donation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Rachel Lenz and Cassidy Depoy from the Macomb Park District explained that they are applying for a National Forestry grant which would provide assistance and support for a tree planting program. Their goal is to plant 150 trees in Veteran's Park in late October and next spring. Trees could also be planted in Oakwood Cemetery and Spring Lake. They are asking MBA to write a letter of support to help their application. A letter composed by Morris Vos supporting their efforts was read and will be included in their application.
2. Once again, Jerry Yocum's son has donated flower seeds to MBA for distribution. Besides the four boxes of flower seeds, he also donated 20 boxes of vegetable seeds. Members are encouraged to find creative ways to disperse these seeds to individuals, businesses, and organizations.
3. Wilma Wilson reported that County Board Chairman, Scott Schwerer announced in church recently what a wonderful job MBA is doing to beautify the city, especially around the county courthouse.
4. Penny asked that we appeal to other groups and organizations to help with our efforts around the city. Our membership is more mature and we could use some younger volunteers to help with the more physical aspects of our work. We are grateful to the local FFA and 4-H Clubs for their assistance in the past and anticipate their willingness to continue in the future.

2018 MEETING DATES:

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| October 17 (Wednesday) | Nancy Jones and Pat Hobbs-"Enjoying your flowers long after the growing season – tips for painting flowers " |
| November 8th (Thursday) | Card Party Fundraiser – Macomb Country Club 1:00 p.m. |
| November 15 (Thursday) | Rachel Lenz – Executive Director Macomb Park District
"All you should know about the Macomb Park District" |

