

Macomb Beautiful Association

March 20, 2019 Minutes

President Barbara Knox called the meeting to order at noon and welcomed members. No guests were in attendance.

Barb thanked members of the MBA Board for working hard this winter to get ready for another successful year. Folders of materials were distributed to those in attendance and included: agenda, financial reports, the new MBA brochure, a calendar of 2019-2020 meetings and other important dates, and other activities,

Items discussed:

1. Calendar items. Today is the first annual "Plant a Seed" day started by Kimbal Musk and Hugo Matheson founders of Big Green, a national nonprofit to help provide a healthier future for kids by introducing them to real food through a nationwide network of Learning Gardens and food literacy programs (plantaseeday.org). Barb suggested that next year MBA members might want to participate in Plant a Seed day and do something with children in the community.
Other dates are included on the calendar provided – however, Pella is no longer doing the annual recycling of electronics and the hazardous waste recycling will also not be done this year.
2. Updated the brochure. It includes a form for new members to complete. It will be distributed around town at various locations including City Hall, the Macomb Public Library, the Chamber of Commerce, the Western Illinois Museum and other high traffic places. Sharon Lindahl suggested that these brochures be made available in local banks. Barb encourage MBA members to share these brochures with friends and to remind everyone that they can make a contribution to MBA without being a member.
3. Committee list. Barb distributed a list of 2019-20 committees which includes information about each committee's board liaison. Committee members were encouraged to sign up for committees and to contact the board liaison if they have any questions.
4. Minutes of the November 2018 meeting were distributed. No corrections or changes were suggested. Penny Yunker and Rosemary Aten moved to approve the minutes. Motion carried. These minutes are attached
5. Penny Yunker presented the 2018 year-end financial report and the January-February 2019 report. These reports are attached. An increase in business dues from \$10 to \$20 was approved by board members during the winter break. A motion was made to retroactively approve the changes to the business dues by Marilyn Salieres and Peggy Ma. Motion carried.
6. Penny also presented the 2019 budget. Barb also mentioned that the amount for the lights in Chandler Park would be increased from \$1,500 to \$1,600. The City of Macomb is currently paying for the Chandler Park Christmas trees.
Barb mentioned that she has spoken to Larry Aurelio, County Board Chair of Building and Grounds Committee regarding the possibility of undertaking a restoration of the grass areas around the courthouse. Larry mention that there is a standing water

problem that is going to be remediated by the City. Until then any work to restore the grass areas will have to wait. Barb also talked to Gretchen DeJaynes the McDonough County Clerk re possible celebrations for 150th anniversary of the McDonough County Courthouse. Marilyn Salieres mentioned that MBA has a long history of supporting the beautification of the area around the courthouse. MBA got a nice thank you from courthouse members for past efforts. Barb and John Looman, MBA first VP mentioned the bid received from Lawn Moores for the restoration of the grass areas around the Courthouse. The total bid is for \$1,325. MBA would be responsible for half the cost. Sharon Lindahl and Rosemary Aten moved to approve the expenditure. The motion carried.

7. Barb mentioned that the roses in the flower beds on the north side of Chandler Park need to be replaced as they are diseased. The budget includes \$700 for plants to replace the roses and for other plantings in flower beds throughout the park. Carrie Boehms Corey has suggested plants that might provide year-round color and which coordinate with City plantings. Sue Marshall mentioned using Red Twig shrubs – they are pretty all year and their red stems can be used for Christmas decoration. It was determined that these shrubs get too tall to be used to replace the roses.
8. \$200 has been budgeted to plants in the flower bed at the depot. This may or may not be enough depending on winter damage which still has to be assessed.
9. Barb also presented the proposed changes to the MBA By-Laws which are highlighted in blue in the copies distributed. The changes focus on two main areas: 1) changes to the duties of the treasurer to include responsibility for collecting membership dues; and 2) changes to the dues will now be made at the discretion of the Board, with input from MBA membership. Other small changes have been made to the By-Laws. The proposed changes will be voted on at the April 17th meeting.
10. Calendar and publicity. Barb mentioned that Jim Yunker has updated the MBA website (MacombBeautiful.com). Viewers can now download the membership form and a calendar of meeting dates and other programs. Barb has also updated the MBA listing on the calendar of the Macomb Chamber of Commerce, and the Macomb Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. Sarah Looman Gibson continue to update our Facebook page. Sharon Lindahl is working with the McDonough County Voice to ensure that our meetings are listed in the newspaper on a timely basis.
11. Fundraising. Sharon Lindahl reminded us of the June 6th Card Party to be held at the Macomb Country Club at 1 p.m. Members are encouraged to sign up for a table. Door prizes will be provided. Penny Yunker also mentioned that PEO is having a Card Party on Thursday April 25th and encourage MBA members to support this PEO fundraiser as their members frequently attend our fundraiser. Penny Yunker is taking a step back this year from selling scones. The increase in business dues is expected to help increase receipts for MBA projects.
12. Heritage days – Several members suggested various activities to promote MBA in the community such as a flower show, flower sales at Farmers Market, etc. Barb asked Sue Marshall if MBA could sponsor a plaque/cash award at the Extension Fair. Sue will look into it.

13. Maureen Marx, Chair of the 50th Anniversary Committee reported that current members of the committee include Morris Vox, Garnette Hallwas, Sharon Lindahl, Penny Yunker and Maureen Marx. Maureen shared a list of possible activities that might be conducted during the anniversary year (2022). The major item on the list is the proposed gift of a sundial or armillary to the City. This gift would be located in a Macomb Park. Compton Park is currently being considered as a possible location as it is currently underused. Maureen pointed out that we want a social space not only for the sundial or armillary but also large enough so that people can congregate, sit and talk, and enjoy the sculpture and location. Chandler Park is already crowded. Marilyn Salieres suggested we consider the south side of City Hall. Rosemary Aten suggested an expanded MBA booklet to recap some of the past history of MBA. She mentioned that 5 past presidents of MBA are alive and we could gather information from them about MBA (Burt Witthuhn, Cathy Clayton, Roger Carmack, Rosemary Aten, Penny Yunker). Due Marshall mentioned museum project but that project is due to start in a few weeks and will be completed before this summer. Sandy Nelson suggested that we include someone from Western on the Committee. Penny mentioned that the committee met with City Administrator Dean Torreson and City Public Works Director Scott Coker and have requested that they identify someone to represent the City on the committee. We suggested Gayle Carper but left it up to the City to decide. Maureen mentioned that members of the committee met with Duke Oursler about designing a piece of public art for us. Duke is very excited to do this. He will provide a couple of designs for us to look at and if we select one design, he will then make a model. Once a model is approved, he would then start work on a full-scale sculpture. Rosemary Aten has tentatively agreed to serve on this committee. Dennis Danowski mentioned that the City has in the past contributed to such project ... Wayland could do base.
14. Depot. Victoria Engnell reported to Barb before the meeting that the planters at the Depot were cleared of holiday decoration and given to FFA members at West prairie who are in the process of growing the geraniums for the summer. Their greenhouse now has a new heater so plants should be in good shape by planting time.
15. Chandler Park. Barb had requested a meeting of those in some way involved in the upkeep of Chandler Park. Kristin Terry organized the meeting which included all individuals in the list below. Gary Rhoads reported that Chandler Park is used for many purposes by many groups both during the day and late into the evening. There are food trucks after bar close and at time over 100 people milling around the park late at night. Gary has wanted to improve the grass in Chandler Park but it is just not possible. Kristin reported that the City can no longer water any of the flower beds tended by MBA. We would need to water anything we plant. Flags of love will be putting bricks and making other changes. The Lamoine administrators will seek the help of residents to tend plants in the 2 raised flower beds on the southeast corner of Chandler Park. with plants in beds John Looman is putting together a design for the flower beds on the NE and NW corners of Chandler Park and requested information about the current plants at those locations. There is a magnolia, some spring bulbs, and a few perennials that will be identified when the growing season starts. Cleanup in Chandler Park – will take place on Saturday April 20th between 9 and 11 a.m. The Macomb 4-H group has agreed to help as

have members of NABA (National Association of Black Accountants). Sue Marshall suggested contact the WIU Vets club if additional help is needed.

Scott Coker	City of Macomb
Brad Whitford	City of Macomb
Marcia LeFante	Flags of Love
Barb Knox	Macomb Beautiful Association
Penny Yunker	Macomb Beautiful Association
Dean Torreson	City of Macomb
Carol Sims	Macomb Womens Club
Breand Allison	Macomb Womens Club
Sharon Lindahl	MBA/MWC
Michael Franke	Veterans Memorial
Clara Carrigan	City of Macomb
Kristin Terry	City of Macomb
Gloria Diggs	City of Macomb (XMAS Lights)
Skip Bowles	City Forester
Gary Rhoads	City of Macomb

16. Courthouse – Wilma Wilson reported that the south side of the courthouse needs mulching and perennials. Donated asters and annuals will be planted.
17. Penny Yunker reported that the 2nd phase of the Downtown Revitalization project will PY square renovation will include 40+ flower beds instead of planters around the square. Kristin Terry has requested assistance from MBA to plant flowers in the square planters during 2019. The planters will be removed when the Revitalization project starts. Plants will be put into the planters on Saturday May 11th with the assistance of the Macomb 4H club.
18. The Western Illinois Museum director Sue Scott contacted MBA for support of their plan to build a meeting place on the south east corner of the museum to hid their trash container and to provide a meeting and learning space. It will include a bench, flower beds, etc. Chris Enroth will help select plants that tolerate heat. The total project will cost is \$1500. A motion was made and seconded to contribute \$230 to this project for the bench and flowers. Motion carried.
19. Barb reported that the MBA Board looked into the possible need for liability Insurance for our board. The City has assured us that as we are volunteers, we have no liability and are covered by the City.
20. Barb reminded us that the Extension Gardeners Day will take place on Saturday April 6th. MBA members are encouraged to take part.

Meeting adjourned at 1:35.

Respectively submitted Penny Yunker, Treasurer (for Marilyn Pastorelli, Secretary).