

PRESENT: Susan Minogue, Barney Mansavage, Farah Thaxton, Karin Richard, Stacey Kryman, Bill Mahoney, Jay McCrary, Lisa Kennelly, David Cordova, Betsy Arel, Beth Gappert, Melissa Cate Christ, Jason Cook, Kim Herber, Jeremy Hudgeons, Lisa Reising, Deirdre McCrary

Farah Thaxton introduced herself as Madrona K-8 principal and invited all to the February 8 open house. She is working to bridge the relationship between community and school by opening the school to the community through such events as open gym, movie night (showing *Despicable Me*), and bingo night. Events are advertised in newsletters and at the PTSA website, www.madronapantherpartners.org. The school's enrollment is down, and she urges folks to investigate the school and tell others about its programs. Open houses are 6:30 to 8 pm, Feb. 8, March 2, and March 8, plus day tours. The recent bingo night was successful and raised a lot of donations for the teachers' wish lists.

Finance Update: Holly has made arrangements with his neighbor to create a Paypal account for MCC linked to the website. Holly expects that the link might be up by the end of February. Currently donations should be sent to Steve Orser, 333 - 33rd. MCC will actively solicit donations at all future MCC events. We are looking for a treasurer to replace Steve.

Communications: Susan reminded us of ways to find new people (newsletter, email, park signage, Madrona Moms, Facebook page). Stacey will set up future events on a Facebook page. The readerboard is being pursued, reports Barney, and might be up by fall, depending upon funding and other negotiations. Meanwhile, we should be putting up temporary signs. We should explore the possibility of putting a temporary sign on the lot across from Grocery Outlet if Marty Liebowitz is agreeable. Beth will check with SDOT to see about legality. Deirdre will ask realtors for a couple of donated sandwich boards.

The newsletter is important to communications, and we need a replacement for Kim after summer. Producing the newsletter requires more than an editor; production, press, circulation, and copy editors contribute. Currently Kim's job is to decide what's in the issue, contact people and ask them to write, set up the schedule (which has a recurring rhythm, and the MCC meeting is the kick-off), give people deadlines and enforce them, pull stories together, and decide final size. She sends the stories to Susan. Steve is currently acting as ad manager and sends Kim information about content and size of each ad. There is then a fair amount of cutting and re-sizing, after which the edition is sent to proofreaders. Finishing touches are added and she emails it to Girlie Press, and from there it goes to the mailing house (a mailing list is sent monthly to them because it usually changes) for bulk mailing. The layout of the newsletter is done in *InDesign*. Kim's job could be broken up, but currently it requires about 30 hours/month.

Susan reminded us that it is the personal connection that brings people in. We could post signs also in the windows of supporting businesses. Twitter would be another good way for people to access MCC.

Next month we will nominate for open positions on the council and vote in April. Individuals may nominate themselves or another who is willing. We need a president and a treasurer, but Paige and Steve will do those jobs if no one else emerges. There remains room for additional board members as well.

Events: Stacey is working on Neighborhood Appreciation day, now set for March 26. She reviewed the four awards and has called or will call for nominations in the newsletter and at the school. Stacey will collect nominations at her email address, staceykryman@gmail.com. The event will be held in the school library on the morning of Saturday, March 26. Once Stacey has collected nominations and they have been voted upon at the March meeting, she will notify the winners and ask them to be present at the event. She will get the award certificates (currently the template is with Jon Hughes), and possibly get gift certificates from local businesses for winners. There is not always a Resident-for-Life award. Barney and Jon Hughes are managing the school's portion. They will need help setting up and getting donations of coffee and baked goods.

Mayfair's date is Saturday, May 14, 9 am to 1 pm. Stacey is looking for ideas. She plans to try to get more substantial food this year. Kim reminded people of the time when the barbeque was the main MCC event, and the grilled hot dog concession was a money-maker for the council. We talked about possibilities of selling food and tee-shirts with the Madrona logo, for which we have a template. Last year's Mayfair had as many as 600 to 700 people, which is well in excess of the permit. So many attendees raises issues of keeping the event local, which some favor. We talked about ways to bring in the non-parent community, since there is no longer an event like the barbeque to do so. Food geared more toward adults is one possibility. The idea of the park 10-year birthday party would also draw a different segment. We discussed last year's aborted outdoor movie as another possibility for a mixed crowd. Maybe the council could partner with BOOM, since the expenses for the outdoor movie as planned last year are substantial, even with reduced fees being charged by the professionals (copyright fees, the screen, the sound, and a professional to show it). Alcohol use might also be an issue in the park. Kim wondered whether there were a cheaper way to accomplish the same event, as was done by the Y at Homer Harris Park in a past summer.

We closed with a tribute, a round of applause, and thanks to Jeremy Hudgeons for his many contributions to the neighborhood, rallying people, stepping up to jobs that needed to be done, and generally inspiring community spirit by example.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30

Submitted by Deirdre McCrary, Secretary