

Help us grow wisely & well  
... become an MBRA member!



# Marshall Minute

**DECEMBER 2018-  
JANUARY 2019**

## **MBRA Community Meeting**

*Join us while we hear from a local winery and our new Postmaster!*

**Tuesday, January 8th  
7:30 to 8:30 pm**

*Marshall Community Center  
4133A Rectortown Road  
Marshall, VA 20115*

MBRA's Annual Elections;  
2018 members vote

2019 Membership Application  
Forms & Bylaws Available

**FREE refreshments for YOU  
starting at 7:15 pm & door prizes!**

## ***Our featured speakers:***

### **Three Fox Vineyards**

Holli & John Todhunter, Owners  
10100 3 Fox Lane, Delaplane  
[www.threefoxvineyards.com](http://www.threefoxvineyards.com)  
(540) 364-6073

### **Carol White, USPS Manager Marshall Post Office**

Come meet our new Postmaster and  
her associates-learn what's new at the  
Marshall P.O. ~ 540-364-9491  
8361 W. Main Street, Marshall

Pick up your free copy of the  
**Marshall Minute Newsletter**  
at the following locations:

**Marshall Post Office**

**Old Salem Café**

**Custom Cuts**

**Joe's Pizza & Subs**

**Glascok's Grocery**

**Countryside Family Practice**

**Marshall Community Center**

Visit our website:

**[www.MarshallVirginia.org](http://www.MarshallVirginia.org)**

Have questions or suggestions for speakers?

Contact Mary Wilkerson, MBRA President

(540) 364-3400; [mbraeditor@gmail.com](mailto:mbraeditor@gmail.com)

Editor: Mary Wilkerson; Copyright December 2018

## **The Anglican Church of St. John the Baptist invites you to their Christmas Services:**

**11 pm Christmas Eve Sung Mass  
8 am Christmas Day Low Mass  
10 am Christmas Day Low Mass**

**Visit them on the corner of  
Main Street & Winchester Road  
[www.st-johnthebaptist.org](http://www.st-johnthebaptist.org)**

***For a deeper experience of worship***

**Reverend Johnathan Ostman  
540-364-2554  
4107 Winchester Road**



## **Members Needed for Marshall Community Center Advisory Committee!**

If interested, please contact Patrick Workman, Manager, (540) 422-8582

Meetings normally held the third Monday of the month.

Next meeting January 28, 2019 @ 6:30 pm ~ For more info, go to:

[http://www.fauquiercounty.gov/government/departments-h-z/parks-and-recreation/  
administrative-governance](http://www.fauquiercounty.gov/government/departments-h-z/parks-and-recreation/administrative-governance)

## **Ice Rink at Northern Fauquier Community Park**

Rink will be open on weekends and  
school holidays. Skates are available for  
rent. Ice Skating 101 for Teens start on

Jan. 5th and Feb. 2nd; Cost is \$35

**Call 540-422-8582**

## **Join the MBRA for 2019**

Turn the page to find out more  
about the MBRA and what we do.

[www.MarshallVirginia.org](http://www.MarshallVirginia.org)

**Support your local MBRA!**

## ***Much Ado About Things That Aren't True!***

### ***~Setting The Record Straight~***

At our last MBRA Community Meeting of the year in November, a handful of members showed up in an unprecedented fashion to air complaints publicly after our guest business speakers had made their presentations and door prizes were awarded. This was a surprise to our Board since virtually none of these numerous complaints had been submitted to our Board for consideration. This unruly outburst was a disruption to our meeting and disturbed those who showed up to enjoy our usual Community meeting (see youtube video and transcript on home page of [www.MarshallVirginia.org](http://www.MarshallVirginia.org)).

Thankfully, these inaccuracies can now be addressed so that these falsehoods that are causing such unnecessary angst can be put to rest.  
**Please see page 3 for details.**

**Get the facts and just say 'no' to false rumors!** \_\_\_\_\_>

## About the MBRA

The Marshall Business & Residents Association (MBRA) is a local, independent, autonomous private civic group of businesses and residents in the Marshall area. We are a 100% volunteer organization and we take NO tax dollars. Our mission statement is "To protect and enhance the quality of community and professional life in Marshall, Virginia."

### **What the MBRA created and began in 2018:**

**Showcase Mixers:** To spotlight a particular local small business, inviting both residents and businesses to attend.

**Dinner & Conversation:** A free meal to enjoy while learning/discussing an important topic.

**MBRA Networking Group:** B2B events for Marshall-only businesses.

**Small Business Saturday Sidewalk Stroll:** An event for local shopping the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

### **Creations the MBRA continued in 2018:**

**Make Marshall Merry Decorating Contest; Marshall Minute Newsletter; MarshallVirginia.org website expansion; Monthly Community Meetings open to the public now offering free refreshments and free door prize raffles.**

### **Coming New Items for 2019:**

**MBRA Decal for Members; Welcome Basket for Resident Members, and so much more!**

We would like to thank you, the people of Marshall, for participating with us this past year. Special thanks go to those business members that helped us get our very first year of "Showcase Mixers" off the ground by being gracious hosts for the community:

**Big Dog Pots ~ Barrel Oak Winery ~ Carr & Hyde Insurance ~ Paws For Holistic Health Care  
Hottle & Associates ~ Custom Cuts**

Thanks to Patrick Workman and all the Marshall Community Center front desk staff for the excellent service and assistance the MBRA has received during our use of the facilities for our various meetings.

Many thanks go to the Marshall Ruritan Club for providing us all with a wonderful experience in a delightful setting for our October creation of "Dinner & Conversation" with the featured topic: Marshall Main Street Improvement.

The MBRA does all of this with dedicated volunteers and by putting all of the monies we receive back into the community. If you like what we do and how we operate, perhaps you'd like to support us with your membership?

Simply contact us through our website, [www.MarshallVirginia.org](http://www.MarshallVirginia.org) or by phone (540) 364-3400 or email [mbraeditor@gmail.com](mailto:mbraeditor@gmail.com) or come to our Community Meeting to get a membership application form! Only \$30 per year per resident member or \$50 per year per business member. Advertising in our newsletter is for business members only and is inexpensive. You can always find our newsletters at the Marshall Post Office. Our Community Meetings are open to the community, so we look forward to seeing you there!

### Clarity on complaints, in no particular order~ We hope this helps!

**The first complaint of the night came from our former Marshall District Supervisor for Fauquier County, Peter Schwartz. Peter's complaint was that our Board meetings are private and he cannot sit in and observe them.**

**Answer:** It is a decades-long practice of the MBRA that our Board meetings are and have been private, and it is entirely appropriate for us to do so. The MBRA is not government; it is a private civic organization and as such, may have private board meetings and have had private board meetings **for decades**. On November 12<sup>th</sup>, after Peter's November 10<sup>th</sup> request to attend our November 12<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, our board meetings are private **as are many civic group's**. **Private does not mean "secret"**. (See transcript for more info.)

**Debbie Cloud's complaint** that she had asked MBRA President in May or June of this year if the MBRA would add 4 Town Hall -style meetings to our existing schedule of 10 Community Meetings a year.

**Answer:** The MBRA Board considered the idea in late summer, 2018, but felt that we already meet that need on an as-needed basis, as we did with the two meetings we held in September and October. Also, each of our Community meetings Mary Leigh attends serves as a 'mini-Town Hall' meeting in which she addresses community issues and takes questions from the audience. Adding additional meetings for people to attend when the opportunity that is already built in is not being fully utilized does not seem wise to pursue at this time.

Referring to the 29 questions (see November 2018 Marshall Minute) we asked Supervisor Mary Leigh at our October Community Meeting:

**Anne Michael Greene:** Who wrote the questions? **As stated many times prior and as written in our November newsletter, these questions were written by almost every member of our Board.** They were written by Board members for, against, and anywhere in between regarding the project.

**Sarah Atkins to MBRA President.** . . find one that was written in an open and welcoming method . . .

**Answer:** **Mary Leigh had asked our Board to pre-submit questions to her** prior to our October Community meeting. Mary Leigh and those with her were treated very kindly and with respect and consideration at both our September and October meetings, and that has not been disputed. The questions were both appropriate and straightforward.

**Brenda Payne's complaint:** **We're not incorporated. We don't have a voice. We can't change our government body. Mary (the MBRA President) going to the Board of Supervisors is not going to make Marshall better.**

**Answer:** Mary went to speak with MBRA Board approval at Citizens' Time at the Board of Supervisors meetings with feedback gathered on Marshall Main Street Improvement project. The MBRA was the grant applicant for the Marshall Main Street Improvement project.

**Brenda Payne's complaint:** **You just need to make sure that what you're doing is within your guidelines of the Marshall Business & Residents Association and your mission statement is to make sure that Marshall is flourished and do that.**

**Answer:** The MBRA's mission statement is **not to flourish Marshall**. Our mission statement is:

**"To protect and enhance the quality of community and professional life in Marshall, Virginia."** What the MBRA President is doing is fully within the guidelines of the Marshall Business & Residents Association and its Mission Statement.

**Anne Michael Green's complaint:** At the September 11th Community Meeting where the County presented the project, you (MBRA President) made your announcement **before** the County's presentation.

**Answer: False.** The following announcement was made **AFTER** the County had already presented the project: The MBRA Board does NOT endorse the Marshall Main Street Project in its current form, and our Board was divided, but the majority does not endorse the project in its current form.

**Anne Michael Greene's complaint:** Mary (MBRA President) spoke at the Board of Supervisors' Citizens Time on September 13, 2018. . . You said the majority of the members of the organization do not endorse the current Main Street Improvement Project (instead of the majority of the MBRA Board). **Answer:** That is not what I was saying.

**Anne Michael Greene's complaint:** Are you saying the Board of Supervisors Secretary is not . . . (accurate)?

**Answer:** Having viewed the video online at the County's site and having read the posted minutes, yes, the County minutes are incorrect. The MBRA President has brought that to the County Secretary's and Supervisors' attention, provided the accurate written statement that was made at both September and October Citizens' Times, and has asked the County to correct all the records.

**Anne Michael Greene:** But what is your point of going to the Board of Supervisors' at Citizens' Time? **That's my point. What is your point . . . ?** **Answer:** Because 1) This is an issue of great importance to Marshall; 2) The MBRA applied for the grant for the project; 3) The MBRA Board has studied this in detail over the past several months and hosted meetings on it; 4) This falls under our Mission Statement; and 5) County Supervisors have wanted to receive feedback from us. The MBRA is not a government body; on our website and in our newsletters we publish contact info for you to contact your elected officials.

**Note:** **Both a link to the video and the transcript of MBRA's statements at September and October Citizens' Times can be found on our website, [www.MarshallVirginia.org](http://www.MarshallVirginia.org).**

## Clarity on Complaints, concluded

**Duke Yowell:** *Questioned newest Board member, Joe Sarsour, being elected to the Board without vote of the membership.*

**Answer:** According to a long-standing provision in our bylaws, Joe Sarsour was nominated to fill the term of Joe DiLisi, who resigned in the summer, and our Board unanimously approved Joe Sarsour for that term.

**Neal Wavra:** *Is the MBRA going to hold another meeting (in December) for the members to vote?*

**Answer:** The next step is our Board will call an interim meeting and our Board will discuss this.

**UPDATE:** The MBRA Board met in an interim meeting and decided not to hold another membership meeting in December on these issues because of a variety of sentiments expressed by our Board:

- 1) We already solicited feedback twice from attendees at both our September and October Community Meetings and relayed that feedback to the Board of Supervisors' during Citizens' Time. (As reported, September meeting feedback was against the project; October meeting feedback was for the project.)
- 2) Our group was already moving on from the Marshall Main Street Improvement Project topic.
- 3) Everything the MBRA President and Board has done this year has been within our organization's guidelines.
- 4) The complaints aired publicly at our meeting are coming from a place of either misinformation or disinformation, and the most important thing our Board can do is to set the record straight.
- 5) We received many complaints from our general membership who did not like that our meeting was being disrupted by a handful of angry and contentious attendees.

Why is this concern regarding our decades-long practice of private board meetings being raised at this point in time? This past September was the first time in its known history that the MBRA Board has issued a statement against, instead of in support of, what the County Supervisor supported.

Is it okay for the MBRA Board to have private board meetings only if we support the project? Is this sudden criticism simply backlash against the MBRA because of our Board's announcement, after the County's September presentation, that the majority Board opinion does not endorse the project in its current form? Or is this recent complaint about MBRA Board meetings just backlash for the sentiment about a private meeting Mary Leigh held with current and former County project managers Erin Kozanecki, Peter Schwartz, Paul Lawrence and others that some termed as "secret" in Marshall on Tuesday, September 18th, one week after the MBRA hosted the County's presentation?

To shed light on this apparent misunderstanding, some referred to it as a "secret" meeting because it was known only to those who were selected to come. Neither the MBRA leadership nor the MBRA Board was informed nor invited to this meeting nor to any of their subsequent meetings, despite the fact the MBRA was in frequent communication with the County (Mary Leigh and Erin Kozanecki) on this project, and despite the fact that the MBRA stated our goal was "to have good government-community relations".

After the fact, we were told the meeting was about private funding for undergrounding, a suggestion MBRA leadership had made to Mary Leigh at various times over the previous few months. However, Mary Leigh said she picked those whom she wanted to attend the meeting and that it was "a representative group composed of Marshall citizens who have expressed great interest in the undergrounding issue." MBRA leadership had been in frequent and continual communication and in meetings with Mary Leigh and County staff since June of 2018, trying to obtain information which Mary Leigh had explained to us was changing on a weekly basis and relaying our concerns with aspects of the proposed project. As we got information from the County, we passed it on to you, the community, via our newsletters.

While it may be breaking a tradition for the MBRA Board to express a different opinion, and that change may make some uncomfortable, we are optimistic for good government-community relations and ask that tolerance, not hate, be demonstrated.

***We encourage you, no matter what your position on a topic, to stay true to yourself and your opinion!***

**MBRA November 13th Meeting Notes**

**Mary Wilkerson, President**, called the meeting to order at 7:36 pm and thanked everyone for coming.

**(Marshall District Supervisor Mary Leigh McDaniel** was unable to attend to due a schedule conflict.)

**Patty Cloud, Treasurer**, did not bring with her the Treasurer's report but will bring it next month.

1<sup>st</sup> Announcement: Brenda Payne announced the MBRA Marshall Christmas Parade on Saturday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>. Lineup at Hagerstown Block at 10 am, parade starts at 11 am. Brenda will be going in town this week with entry forms and announced that Breakfast with Santa will be earlier in the morning on Dec 1<sup>st</sup> at the Firehouse.

Mary announced our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Make Marshall Merry Main Street decorating contest. There is no theme restriction this year; it is simply whatever your vision is to make Marshall merry. Judging will take place on Friday, Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>, the night before contest winners are announced at the parade on Saturday.

Mary also announced tonight's door prize raffle and refreshments. Ironheart Forge has generously donated two door prizes for tonight, and Joan of Art Custom framing has generously provided refreshments for us tonight.

Small Business Saturday Sidewalk Stroll announcement: this is the first time the MBRA is doing something special for Marshall businesses on Small Business Saturday. Mary encouraged everyone to get people to sign up. A lot of people already have. We simply need to know by November 17th. Mary asked if there are any questions about S.B.S. and explained that we want to drive people to East Main Street since it is often forgotten. Thus, patrons are to pick up S.B.S. Treasure Maps at either Big Dog Pots or Nick's Deli/Glascocks Grocery. Mary gave more details and said we really want to encourage people to enjoy Main Street.

Our first speaker of the evening was **Candy Verrilli, owner of Flying Heron Herbs, Spices, & Teas at 8383 W Main Street,, Suite B in Marshall**. Peter Schwartz, former Marshall District Supervisor, interjected that he has some administrative and governance issues he wants to bring up before the membership. Mary Wilkerson, MBRA President, explained that he will have time

after our speakers when he can do that. Candy Verrilli of Flying Heron gave some background on her business and what inspired her to open in Marshall. She explained that it was the energy of Marshall that drew her here. She made an appointment to view the space and knew right away (it was right for her).

Why Candy opened an herb shop: She has always been a person to nourish other people, so she decided to open her shop and to add spices and teas. For her, they are synergistic; they make sense. When people first come into the store, the fragrance hits you. Then people like to hang out in her shop where she has a couple chairs. She started getting people who were grabbing lunches in town and then came down to her shop. She also puts balloons out front to draw people (and let them know where she is located).

A lot has to do with Candy and the positive vibes she brings to the shop. She also explained that herbs and holistic items are making a boom right now, but there are only a handful shops like hers in Northern Virginia.

Herbs: Anyone know the difference between spices and herbs? Candy explained there is no difference. You use seeds, bark, and root -- it all comes from a plant.

Teas: all of her teas are loose (leaf) teas. She has teas for antioxidants, to reduce inflammation, and black teas to increase bone density. Additionally, she has made her own tea: *Tropical Breezes*, for when you are having your own personal summer. Its ingredients come from all over, such as Sri Lanka and Africa, where its rooibos comes from.

Caffeine: Probably the highest caffeine level is matcha, which is only half of what a cup of coffee is. Candy also has little gifts at her shop. Some are handmade from Nepal. Bathbombs - lots of kids love those - salves, lip balms, and more.

Q & A: Shop hours: Saturdays 10:00am - 5:00pm, and starting this Friday she will be open from late afternoon into the evenings. She is located at **8383 W. Main Street, Suite B in Marshall**. See her website at [www.flyingheron.net](http://www.flyingheron.net) or call her at **703-789-0161**.

Bess Taylor added that she loves the samples Candy has in store! Daniel J. Moore said Cordial Coffee is serving Candy's teas. Debbie Cloud asked about

the jars Candy houses her products in. Candy explained that the reason she has little jars with corks in them is so you can actually smell the products.

Lending Library: Candy said she wants to empower people with their own health, so this lending library of hers is one way to get a little focus on it. How it works: pay \$10 when you borrow a book from her Lending Library, and receive your \$10 back whenever you return the book. Chocolate Tea: Candy tries to work with blends, and brought *Autumn Mist* for the audience to check out. She also has great quality Stevia.

Our second speaker of the evening was **Connie Jones, owner of CJ Custom Cuts** on the west end of town at **8482 W Main Street, Marshall, (540) 364-9234, [www.cjcustomcuts.com](http://www.cjcustomcuts.com)**. December 1st marks their **20 year anniversary!** Connie's family moved to Marshall when she was two years old. Her dad was a barber in Marshall in the 1960s. She got into the business because of her dad. In high school she did cosmetology, then graduated and became certified. The Tuesday after she graduated on a Saturday, she worked with him as a barber/stylist. Worked 10 years in Gainesville. Her sister, Cathy, came to work with her shortly thereafter.

They have Jerry Yowell from the middle of town now in her building, which used to be the home of the Russells. Jerry works out of the room in the back, and it works very well because he has his clientele. Connie's sister Cathy cuts women's hair and also does facial waxing, while Connie cuts men's hair. They have lots of great products, like Matrix, Paul Mitchell, American Crew, and more.

Two years ago, Connie started with Rodan & Fields, a line that is backed by the same two dermatologists as Proactive. Connie does skincare consultations. Rodan & Fields has four main regimens, including skincare regimen, anti-aging, sensitive skin, and acne. They have microdermabrasion tools, which are Connie's favorite.

Q & A: What are some of your biggest success stories in your salon? Connie said she still has some people from when she was working with her dad, and she works on some of their kids, etc. She said that you really get to be family with clients.

. . . continued, next page:



**November 13th Meeting, continued:**

What is Connie's youngest client? Connie: a younger than one-year-old. Custom Cuts is closed Sundays & Mondays. Jerry takes walk-ins; Connie and Cathy encourage appointments (but if someone walks in and they are able, they'll take them). They will have December specials.

**MBRA free door prize raffle drawing:**

Mary announced that we have two prizes generously donated by Joe Sitton of **Ironheart Forge, (540) 270-4680; [www.joesitton.com](http://www.joesitton.com)**. Joe Sitton was present and explained that his donated custom keychains are made of pieces of leftover steel from work he has done. He uses a lot of refurbished steel in his work. He said Ironheart Forge is a one-man operation and a pretty good shop. Connie Jones also announced she is donating a Rodan & Fields facial kit as a door prize.

Mary announced that refreshments are graciously provided by Gina Hillaery, who owns **Joan of Art Custom Framing at 8387 W. Main Street in Marshall, (540) 364-1821**. Gina announced that she has specials for the holidays, including two specials going on right now for length and ready-mades, which will continue through the holidays.

Debbie Cloud won our first Ironheart Forge keychain prize; Ken Taylor won our second Ironheart Forge keychain prize; Peter Schwartz won our final door prize, a Rodan & Fields facial kit.

At this time, Peter Schwartz, previous Marshall District Supervisor for Fauquier County and resident member of the MBRA, shared his complaint: I had asked Mary whether it would be possible to attend (video starts here) . . . a board meeting, and she emailed me back and said 'no', that the board meetings were closed to MBRA members. I've been a member for at least 15 years - maybe longer than that - and I was rather astounded by that response. I don't know what the MBRA board could be discussing that's so sensitive that if one of our members wanted to sit in and observe the meeting that that should be a problem, and Mary indicated that that was a long-standing practice. I certainly was never familiar with that practice in all the years I've been a member of MBRA. So I thought it should be raised and discussed this evening because I think it's a very bad rule - if it's a rule - and I think we should see how the members feel about that."

**Congratulations 2018 Decorating Contest Winners!**

**1st Place** ~ Joan of Art, 8387 W. Main Street

**2nd Place** ~ Flying Heron Herbs, Spices, & Teas, 8383 W. Main Street

**3rd Place** ~ Robin's Nest Antiques & Collectibles, 8371 W. Main Street

***Thanks to all of you for Making Marshall Merry!***

go to [www.MarshallVirginia.org](http://www.MarshallVirginia.org) for more photos and info

***Below: Gina Hilleary of Joan of Art accepts first place trophy***

Mary Wilkerson, MBRA President: Patty, did you want to say anything?

Patty Cloud, MBRA Treasurer: "The only thought that I had was that I've been on several different Boards over the years - school boards, (inaudible) boards, service boards - primarily Piedmont Dispute Resolution Center I've been since 1989, and several other - a hospital board, school board, and couple of other boards - Board meetings have always been closed. Every one that I've ever been on, they're not - the experience that I've had is that if we need specific information and would like some input from a certain member of the community or person that needs to address an issue, then that usually is an invitation to come to the Board; it's not an open, public invitation for anyone who wants to sit in."

Audience member: What do you have to hide?

Patty: I don't have anything to hide, and as far as I know the Board doesn't. It's a matter of being a comfortable, low-key atmosphere.

MW: Thank you Patty. Now, I would like to address that question. Over the weekend, Peter did suddenly ask - we haven't had this request from him for, since recent years - I do know in my experience in nine years as serving as a director on the Board, from my experience everyone who came was invited and stayed for that time when they wanted to speak, and then left. For example, Peter would come if he wanted the Board to support something, a letter to the Board of Supervisors or something like that, he would come and then he would leave and the Board would do their business.

MW: Now, I think y'all are confusing us with a governmental body; we are not a governmental body. For private, private organizations, it is up to the organization. As Patty has said, and Patty also, I think you mentioned all your years on the MBRA board it was a private meeting. I have never seen in my nine years, this be



a public meeting. Why? Because it's for work session and planning. Our Board members, we put in tons of hours. This is like another full time job, so basically I have 2 full time jobs. We do everything for the community.

We're volunteers, blood, sweat, and tears. We're not wealthy investors, we're not wealthy real estate owners. We're doing this because we are, each one of us, being true to ourselves, to fulfill the mission statement that we have which is to promote and enhance the quality of personal and professional life in Marshall.

Now, I know our Board has broken from the long-standing tradition of always taking a certain position - whatever the County, or our Supervisor position, or anything - we are a diverse board; we have a diverse set of opinions. And perhaps that's the first time the MBRA Board has ever had a diverse set of opinions, but we tolerate everyone.

You know, we Board members, there are many different opinions on this Board, and we do what we have to do and we respect each other. And I certainly would hope - now we've gotten a lot of heat and pressure because we have allowed diversity of opinion and we have asked questions that maybe were uncomfortable.

**November 13th Meeting, continued:**

MW, continued: We appreciate everyone's contribution to this community and we encourage each one of you, whatever your position is on any topic before Marshall, please, stay true to yourselves and keep that, you know, position, and follow your heart. And we can all work through everything we need to work through. Now, I know Peter, you asked, I know you are unhappy that you couldn't attend the Board meeting but like I said, it was a long-standing practice. This is a public forum and you did ask and that's great, and I did get your Sunday night email, late Sunday night, demanding ten years of our records by tonight --

Peter: No, I didn't demand anything, Mary, okay, let's not characterize it that way -

MW: Okay -

Peter: When you told me that members were not allowed to attend the board meetings, I looked at the bylaws and the bylaws say that the Board is required to keep minutes of all board actions, so if members are not allowed to attend the meetings, which is something I think the membership needs to make a decision about going forward, I certainly think that, in accordance with the bylaws, the members ought to be able to see all of the minutes of Board meetings, so we can see the actions that the Board has taken over the years. I didn't demand them --

MW: And we have no, thank you, that's a good question --

Peter: -- Let me finish, please.

MW: Yes

Peter: I requested it, and I specifically said that if there was any cost incurred in making copies of those minutes, I'd be happy to pay that cost so that the organization didn't incur that cost.

MW: Yes

Peter: But I think that is not the primary issue here. I think the primary issue here is that I know a number of members of this organization who are long-standing members that I have talked to are incredulous that a member can't simply go and observe a board meeting.

I didn't ask to participate - I'm not a Board member, I asked to attend and observe, and, as you can imagine, I have sat on many boards in my life - both governmental boards, community organization boards, and private corporate boards - and frankly, I have never sat on a board where someone involved in the organization, whether it was a member of the community . . . shareholder --

Jeff Symanski, MBRA Director: You were on the Board of Supervisors, weren't you? They have private work sessions, don't they?

Peter: No, they, no, anybody can attend a work session . . . Board of Supervisors

Linda Suter: They do have closed sessions.

John Suter, MBRA Vice President: They have closed sessions.

Peter: They only have closed sessions where the law required it in connection with personnel matters.

And, the fact of the matter is, this isn't the BOS, this is an organization that is supposed to represent its members - the Board is supposed to represent the membership of the MBRA and the Board needs to be accountable to the membership of the MBRA and if we don't have minutes that we can see and we can't observe the meetings, then there's no way to determine whether the Board is taking actions or making decisions that are reflective of this organization's membership.

MW: Well, Peter, I was going to tell you tonight - I am definitely working on that; we are definitely looking into your request, but, I do have to say, I feel it was rather aggressive and hostile to request them by tonight, less than 48 hrs, ten years of records.

So I just want to say that. I think we need to go on, keep this on a positive note. Sarah?

Sarah Atkins, not an MBRA member: Um, yeah, I'm the secretary of the Leeds Ruritan club and I consider that to be sort of a similar community event.

And as a standard practice, all of our members are invited to the meetings.

MW: Okay, and that's fine. And each private, civic group can decide how they want. We also have sensitive matters we don't want to embarrass past leadership in any way and we're dealing with them.

And also, there is a certain factor that some people in this community have said for years to me, and I didn't really see it myself until the past couple of years - that they feel intimidated about speaking up; they feel there is going to be bullying and retaliation or something like that if they don't go along with the recommended, powers that be -whatever they call them- the popular, the, whatever the idea is, if they have a different opinion.

Okay, this is America, we shouldn't feel that way. We shouldn't feel, we should, like I said, be true to ourselves and stick with that. Dan?

Daniel J. Moore MBRA Business Member, 8393 West Main Street: I appreciate that, but I came up to you after the meeting at the Ruritan Club, because as someone who is not opposed to the renovation and improvement as it stands, felt that my voice was definitely not being heard.

**November 13th Meeting, continued:**

Daniel continues: So to have, for me, who started coming here because it was a nice meeting and it was lovely, and it was all supportive and it was all warm and fuzzy, to start feeling uncomfortable coming to these meetings, like that's what we were talking about is people feeling like they weren't heard and feeling like they were getting bullied; I definitely feel that way now. I feel very hesitant to speak up for my position especially knowing that it's very clear, or I perceive it to be very clear, that is how the MBRA was being represented, specifically by you.

MW: In what way? Because the statement that we made at our September meeting? Is that the question?

Daniel: Well, for one, but also the questions that were asked at the meeting seemed very one-sided.

MW: Well actually those questions were put forth - and I did speak with you afterwards and I encouraged you to definitely stay true to yourself and your opinion. Those questions were put forth by people who were both for and against and anywhere in between in the project, so . . .

Daniel: Right but the perception is that the group as a majority is against. I'm not asking . . .

MW: That's correct, the group in September was against. But we have to be able to flesh things out, \*Audience interruption\* MW: - Excuse me -

Peter Schwartz: What group?

MW: Hold on just a second, the Board, excuse me, the Board in September was against. But let, hear me out: we have to be able to flesh things out because we

MW continued: are constantly getting new information, and changing, and if we don't in the course of this process, you don't know if we're gonna end up changing it. You don't know. This is just the simple process of getting information. And we have to allow the civil discourse.

Now, I didn't hear that there was any, um, any, um, complaint that anyone was rude, that I was rude, the question, the moderator, or anything else at that time. That's not the case, it was very nicely delivered. We wanted to find out the answers to the questions. You don't know -

Daniel: Well you're hearing them now. No one's talking about anyone's behavior --

MW: - Okay, you don't know if we're gonna change our minds. It's just the process, so. Okay, Sarah?

Sarah: Yeah, if I can just give you the minutes and ask you to pick these questions that you've written and find one that you feel is written in an open and welcoming method to gather information. The questions are right there; I'll give you a minute to go through them.

MW: Okay, we already feel that they were appropriate questions. So it might just be that we have to agree to disagree on that. So, if everyone would like to stand and say the Pledge of Allegiance.

Peter Schwartz: No, no.

Bess Taylor (was not an MBRA member): Wait a minute.

Audience member: Excuse me.

Dr. Ren Royston, MBRA Business member, Countryside Family Practice: We're just beginning.

Audience member: We're just starting.

Joe Sarsour: We have a lot of new people who are here today and we don't want to give the wrong impression that this is gonna be a terrible meeting here because that's not the way our meetings go.

But I think that the Board should get together, have an emergency meeting, and we should have a time of the month that we have an open discussion that people can come to this room or wherever, and we can start talking about

all the stuff that you guys like to talk about so there's more dialogue.

We're gonna have an emergency December meeting; whatever needs to be done, as soon as possible, so that the Board can meet, and there has to be an open, it has to be an open discussion, like this is right now, where guests that are coming that are not members don't feel like we, it's drama like this every time, cause it's never been like this before. There seems to be a lot of people that are very angry today that want blood --

Dr. Royston: - Yeah -

Joe Sarsour continued: . . . this before. There seems to be a lot of people that are very angry today that want blood -

Dr. Royston: - Yeah -

Joe Sarsour: I really think, it's like I said

Dr. Royston: So Joe, you're the person who alleged that I was having secret meetings

Joe Sarsour: Don't, you're better than this.

Brenda Payne (to Dr. Royston): Wait, wait, down.

Joe Sarsour: You're better than this.

Dr. Royston: No, listen, you put it on social media, you're gonna hear it.

Brenda Payne (to Dr. Royston): It's okay, easy, easy.

Joe Sarsour: You're better than this Dr. Royston.

Mary-Elizabeth, MBRA Secretary: I'd like to say something as the Secretary. Our Board has worked very hard this year to gather information and disseminate information to the community. The community was by and large unaware of, if not this project altogether, the details of the project --

Peter Schwartz: No.

Dr. Royston: No, no.

Bess Taylor: No, no, no, no, no, no.

Audience member: Can we just quietly -



**November 13th Meeting, concluded:**

Mary-Elizabeth: I need to finish. As far as your point about what we are, as she said, our mission statement is "To protect and enhance the quality of community and professional life in Marshall;" it's very active.

If you look at all of the grant applications that the MBRA was used to get this project going ten years ago, I believe it is Paul Lawrence, I haven't been able to get an answer from him whether it was Mr. Schwartz or Mr. Lawrence who wrote those applications, but when sending them in to VDOT, the MBRA was used, referenced, saying that there is no elected body in Marshall because it is not incorporated so the MBRA is essentially the closest thing to an elected body; it's . . . representative of the community . . .

Anne Michael: Oh no, can I correct that?  
\*Audience interruption\*

Mary-Elizabeth: Ma'am, please, I need to finish --

Anne Michael: Paul's not here,

Mary-Elizabeth: Ms. Greene, please.

MW: Okay, one question at a time.

\*Anne Michael continues interruption\*

Mary-Elizabeth: I do need to finish; I do need to finish.

\*Interruption continues\*

MW: Okay, wait a minute, wait a minute, Anne Michael, you'll have your turn. Mary-Elizabeth?

Joe Sarsour: That's the Secretary of the MBRA, let her finish. How can you interrupt her?

\*Anne Michael continues interruption\*

John Suter: Don't interrupt her!

Mary-Elizabeth: I need to finish.

\*Interruption continues\*

MW: Okay, we're gonna have to close the meeting.

Joe Sarsour: . . . on the Board, get active in the MBRA.

MW: If we can't have it civil, we're gonna have to close the meeting.

Mary-Elizabeth: There has been a lot of hatred toward the MBRA this year and it is not logical. Because the MBRA, it was fine when the MBRA was used to get this project going; that's fine.

We can take positions all the day, till the cows come home; nobody needs to sit in on the Board meetings then, but if we come out with a statement saying that our majority of our Board opposes it, then all hell breaks loose.

So, I just want to set the record straight, if you want to see the records, the MBRA has been used as the closest thing to an elected body, and it has been used to take action like this before.

Anne Michael: Because Mr. Lawrence has left - he had to go to a business meeting - he was here; he actually has a notebook of historical data of the people that were present during all of the discussions dating back to the early 2000s, some, because every time he was present at a meeting, in terms of discussing the Main Street improvements, comprehensive plans, form based code discussions, all of that started in 2001. He has an entire notebook of people that signed just similar to this, as far as being in a meeting where they have signed in . . . they were MBRA members . . .

Joe Sarsour: Why didn't he give it to you before he left, if it was that important?

Anne Michael: But what is your (Mary's) point of going to the BOS at Citizens' Time? That's my point. What is your point . . . ?

Joe Sarsour: Because she's on the Board; the MBRA is the only voice for Marshall. If if the MBRA didn't bring it to everybody's attention that they're getting ready to impose taxes on us for new sidewalks and make the sidewalks more narrow through town, no one would ever know; that's why everyone's so upset because the plan's been ruined or been derailed because now the MBRA has brought it by everyone's attention. That's why the MBRA is so important.

I mean, if anybody thinks they can do a better job, start a new club, start a new association and see what you guys can do. I just don't understand why you guys are embarrassing us in front of these new, nice guests that came in and you're making us look like we're illegitimate, it's crazy, and I think that Ms. Wilkerson, you should close this meeting and we should have a members board should take a vote, and we should have an emergency forum so we that can address all these things, because we could go about this thing all night long -- . . .

Joe Sarsour: And I want to apologize for Dr. Royston if anybody got scared

Peter Schwartz: You don't ever need to apologize for Dr. Royston

Joe Sarsour: Oh I have to, he scared everyone here.

Peter Schwartz: Don't ever apologize for Dr. Royston.

Joe Sarsour: He, you didn't get scared . . . tonight? We've never had a deputy come to any of our meetings.

Brenda Payne: Hush. Joe, Joe, hush.

MW: Thank you, thank you. I'd like to say something for everyone.

Joe Sarsour: It's a sad day in Marshall.

MW: -- on this topic, and I'd like to just say, look, everybody has a care and concern of Marshall at heart. There is no reason to be so angry. We don't need hate in this room, we don't need hate in this world.

There's no reason to be so angry. All of us here have the common goal of the caring about Marshall. And Duke, and Dr. Royston, Peter Schwartz, all these people have been working on this for a long, long time and, to their credit, they've put a lot into this and a lot of care.

Now, a lot has changed over the past 30, 20, 10 years. Here we are today. We need to engage all of the community; all of the community has questions, because 30, 20, even 10 years ago, I'm talking to people who didn't know these details. These details of the project are coming out now. The devil is in the details, so now the community needs to look at them. I suggest we do just that. So, the MBRA will get back to you with another meeting to address your needs on this.

We need to tolerate different opinions without anger. We need to tolerate different opinions, we need to get everything out on the table because you don't know where we're all gonna end up. We're getting all kinds of information and sometimes our opinions are changing, so don't hate, please don't hate.

We need to work together for our common goals. And now it's time to say the Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm with Pledge of Allegiance.

*Minutes by Mary-Elizabeth Wilkerson,  
MBRA Secretary*



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