

## **MCA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES Dec 29,2025**

Meeting started at 6:04 pm

Pledge of Allegiance lead by Dave

Treasurer report: read by Kathleen

Opening \$7006.59 + deposits \$743.52, Expenses: \$701.87 Savings: \$23,127.72 @ 4%

CD: \$30,513.32 @ 4.11%/3 months Total: \$60,689.28

We made money off the Christmas trees this year.

Motion to approve Treasurer report: by Dave, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Leo

Board Members Present: Carol, Tammey, Kathleen, Mike, Terry, Kelly

Motion to approve old minutes: by Mike, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kathleen

### **Old Business:**

A Happy Thanksgiving message was read

Civic Partners: GPICA- on 11/4 Castaway Cove Restaurant gave presentation, Voices were heard and voted in favor.

Membership: The Oct/Nov drive continues for new members and returning guests. Bonnie gave update.

Clean Up Matlacha: SWF Conservancy is working on getting a dumpster for the SE side of the mangroves at the gateway.

Matlacha Park: Electricians were wiring outdoor lighting. We are following the re-opening date.

S&D Betsy Ross: Thank you Dave H for displaying the flags for Nov-Marine Corp 250 years & Thanksgiving

Island Clean up: Steve Honc & Company demo'd the brown house. On 11/13 the old cement gift shop started demo. We thank the county for the budget to demo theses dangerous buildings.

FIBER: a presentation to LCPHB was well received & led to a meeting with county leaders. Mike H- gave an update.

Election Time: Stephen L gave update. Anyone interested in joining the board was to contact Stephen.

Artwalk: 11/14 huge success & is growing. Thank you, Jennifer. Her new store in Punta Gorda Wild Orchid 124 Cross St.

Food Drive: Congrats to Islanders you contributed 99 lbs. for food pantry for Nov & Dec.

Guest Speaker Nov,: Diane Gleason from the PI Food Pantry

Guest Speaker- Sue Dahod- Caloosa Waterkeepers Volunteer of the year!

Island Angel Award: Honoring Linda & Larry Solinger, the former owner of Matlacha Menagerie, who retired after 16 years.

Welcome to the Island: Joe Perry New owner of the Matlacha Menagerie

New Restaurant: Solomon's Famous BBQ, open Saturdays only. Outside seating for now, soon Thurs-Sun.

The Shoe Lady: is now open at the former My Sweet Floret Building

Matlacha Lighted Boat Parade: 12/14 at 6pm. 5:30 the boat Armada gathered at the south side of the bridge.

Christmas Holiday lighted house competition Matlacha: 12/22 win a Blue Dog GC. No board members competing.

Christmas Eve Luminaries: volunteers were to gather at 2pm on Island Ave.

### **New Business:**

A message from the MCA president Carol: She gave a wonderful message thanking everyone who helped clean up, decorate, plant, paint and those who contributed to helping MCA make Matlacha beautiful again.

Committees: Membership had 10 people sign up at the European Market. Safety & Clean up below. LCHPB below.

**Civic Partners:** the next GPICA meeting is Tues Jan 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the First Baptist Church at the Center.

**Christmas on Matlacha:** Thank you to all the volunteers & shops. Positive comments keep pouring in.

**Guest Speaker:** Pastor Preston Balmain and his wife: AKA Matlacha Santa and Mrs. Clause. Their organization Churches on the Street is held in North Ft. Myers on Tues night from 4:30-6:30 at the North Ft Myers Rec center on US41. They feed the needy and on average it is about 80-100 people. They also provide clothes and toiletries. Anyone can be a sponsor 1 time or every month.

**Christmas Forest:** Kathleen gave update on donations and receipts. There were 25 trees sold and MCA did make some money off this event. Mr. Ono did offer his lot for next year.

**Artwalk:** Dec was successful. Nov had more pedestrians. Jennifer B is selling Island Flair but continues to be the director of Artwalk.

**European Christmas Village:** Next year we will go back to having this on a Sunday to help with parking issues and will also have earlier hours.

**Island Luminaries:** Congratulations to Billie on a project well done. She will give an update at the Jan Meeting.

**LCHPB:** Carol, Kathleen & Mike are meeting with the LCHPB, plan & zoning on Monday Jan 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026 to talk about using our tax money here in Matlacha. Mike spoke: There is 3 billion dollars in the Lee County budget. Matlacha does not have any projects lined up as of now. This meeting will discuss how Matlacha can reach out to Lee County Departments like recreation, water, FDOT etc. so we can start using our tax dollars here in Matlacha. HPB has a responsibility to help fund and raise funds for Matlacha. Mr. Rodriguez will be at this Jan meeting.

**Matlacha Park:** Ruaine will be giving update on the Civic & Art building in Matlacha Park. MCA is requesting a date for the grand opening.

**Gala:** Matlacha turns 100 years old! Gala date is set for March 8, location TBD. Interested volunteers please sign up. We did sell out last year so please get your tickets early.

**Butterflies & a Band:** Free event Sunday Feb 15 from 2-5pm locations TBD. We will announce any Island Angel Awards. More information at our Jan meeting.

**Patty Smith:** MPIDI & artist power poles. Patty reached out to locate the old painted power poles. She will be asking for volunteers to help freshen up the paint so they can be placed at the new St James City Fire House once building is complete. If you know anyone who painted these poles, please reach out to Patty as they want to put a plaque on the poles with the artist's name. Look out on Facebook for updates.

**GPJA:** tool donations. If you have any tools that are not in use please consider giving them to GPJA.

**Elections:** Stephen is stepping down and becoming part of the PI Chamber, Judd is stepping down due to his busy schedule. Our secretary Tammey is also stepping down as secretary, is still staying on the board, but will be the New Madam of the Matlacha Hookers. If you are interested in becoming the MCA secretary, please reach out to Carol.

**New board members** who have been nominated and accepted the position are Jan Morton, Motion to accept their nomination by Dave, 2<sup>nd</sup> Terry. Steve Smith, Motion to accept their nomination by Kelly, 2<sup>nd</sup> Leo, Kieren Jennings, Motion to accept their nomination by Kathleen, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tammey. Mike made a motion to accept and vote.

Lighting Competition Results: 12/22 the board rode throughout Matlacha, including Matlacha Ave, May St, Island Ave and Shoreview to look at vote on the lighted homes. Each board member scored the houses on a scale of 1-5 in each category. Visual Impact, Creative, Theme & Technology. These points were then added together to come up with the top 3 winners. We did have a tie; the results were read by Tammey:

3<sup>rd</sup> place: The Grinch on the Roof

2<sup>nd</sup> place: (tie) Jan Morton,  
Fishing Santa,  
Rodger & Kathy,  
Patty & Steve

1<sup>st</sup> place: Dave & Sheri

1<sup>st</sup> place received a \$50 GC from Blue Dog.

Island Clean Up: Jan 24<sup>th</sup> 9am MCA to supply garbage bags and grab sticks. Please wear gloves and a hat.

Other: Mike Burner and Huck: new construction on Matlacha Ave. Huck is looking for Matlacha Island support on the building of his house on Matlacha Ave. He is to attend a HPB meeting to decide if a flat roof/deck will be possible for his house. If this is approved the construction will begin in Feb. A motion was made by Mike to have the MCA support & back Huck's house plans. A second was made by Jody and the MCA members voted yes. Kathleen abstained her vote due to being on the HPB committee. MCA will be asking commissioners about lights in the park, speed limit signs on Matlacha Ave and Island Ave., solar speed limit signs for PI Rd, No passing on shoulder signs and flashing cross walk at Island Ave and PI Rd.

#### **Mark your Calendar for Happening Events:**

1/24/26: Sat Matlacha beautification & clean up day at 9am downtown from drawbridge to just pass the Tiny Villages

2/15/26: Butterflies & a band, calling all artists

3/8/26: Watercolors Gala.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Carol, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave

Adjourned at 7:03 pm