

MVACA BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 15, 2018

Attendees: Chris Lee, Suzanne Ratti, Harry Martin, Brian Shepter, Steve Quirk, Linda Calvert, Robin Graves, Sally Horner, Rich Warden, Sandy Fox, Carol Clarke, Sal LiCausi, and Karen Sale

Agenda Item 1: Meeting Call to Order

Meeting Opening: Chris Lee, newly elected MVACA President, whose term commenced on January 1, 2018, opened the meeting at 7:07 pm; the meeting was held in the home of Robin Graves as the school space was not available due to the Federal holiday.

Agenda Item 2: Introduction of Chris Lee, President MVACA

Chris opened the meeting discussing with the group that he has been feeling his way through the transition with assistance from Brenda Fuller, MVACA Past President. Chris has spoken to all of the MVACA members of the group. His goal for 2018 is a comprehensive/progressive look at what is to be accomplished. Chris stated his personal goal is to serve out his two-year term. Chris asked that anyone interested in doing more for the organization should reach out and volunteer.

Chris Lee grew up in Mago Vista and began his career at age 13 as a *Capital* delivery person. This position began his instruction in human characteristics. He offered that we all share a common goal which is for the organization to thrive, the group as well as the whole community to come together as a cohesive unit – come together as one – build value for residents. Much of Chris’s background is in marketing; Chris currently works as the East Coast Marketing strategist for Cypress Creek Therapy.

Agenda Item 3: Review of Roberts Rules of Order

Chris advised the board that we will adhere to Roberts Rules of Order during meetings. He offered that the group could review the previous material provided or perhaps consider reading the book. Chris pointed out that there are two important pieces of order that will be adhered to during board meetings; they are:

- a. Point of Order – which is if anyone says “point of order” that means someone is speaking “off topic”. With limited meeting time and to ensure everyone has an opportunity to speak it will be important to stay on topic; therefore the group should not be shy about stating “point of order” if someone in the group is speaking off topic.
- b. Point of Privilege – which is if you have the floor – you have the floor and should not be interrupted – therefore if there is an interruption the person interrupting should be called out by a member of the group stating “point of order”.

Following these two key points will help keep meetings on track and better ensure that the agenda items are covered during the meeting.

While Chris would like to have an “open meeting forum” he stated that group conscience is more important the individual and no one should be shy about using these two important rules of order.

Agenda Item 4: 501 C 3 (tax exempt status)

Chris asked Rich Warden to speak to the group about the process to transfer the group from a 501 C 4 (for profit) to a 501 C 3 (not for profit) organization.

Rich advised the group that we will have to make changes to the Articles of Incorporation for change to a tax exempt status. Rich advised the board that 501 C 3 status requires an organization to offer “educational programs”; the Sports Program as well as other offerings from the organization would qualify as “educational programs”. The fees associated with the change in status is \$225.00 to the IRS and \$175.00 to the State of Maryland. Rich advised the group that it would take approximately six (6) months for the IRS to process the application once they begin the process. With a change to the 501 C 3 status the Sports Program and the Board would qualify for grants and be able to accept tax deductible donations. Prior to submittal of the application the board will need to update/change the current by-laws. The Board will need to ensure that the by-laws are up to date with federal law and that all board positions are documented. Brian Shepter advised that any change in the by-laws requires a two-thirds vote of the board and its members. Rich advised that in order to transfer from 501 C 4 status to 501 C 3 status will require a dissolution of the current organization. Chris appointed a special committee to review this possible change in status and provide a report to the board. The board members assigned to this special committee are: Rich Warden, Brian Shepter, and Harry Martin. Chris asked the committee to provide a report to the board at the February board meeting.

Agenda Item 5: Unification

Chris Lee spoke to the board about unification – he stated that one way to create a united front is through communication. He asked the group to refer the handout provided the meeting attendees titled “The ARC Triangle” (Attachment 2). Chris advised as with any group there are many types of personalities. He advised that ARC stands for “Affinity”, “Reality” and “Communication”; they stand for:

Affinity: the fondness you have for someone or something

Reality: a point of agreement, what we believe to be real to us

Communication: the transfer and duplication of ideas between two or more parties

Triangle = understanding

Agenda Item 6: Introduction of Suzanne Ratti, Vice President MVACA

Chris Lee introduced Suzanne Ratti the new Vice President, MVACA to the board members. Suzanne advised the board members that one of her goals is to engage the community through digital platforms. Suzanne stated that digital platforms have little or no cost involved and can reach a large percentage of the community; therefore this will be the primary means of communication. Suzanne advised that on December 23rd they posted on the MVACA Facebook page and almost immediately received 386 “likes” that number is now up to 472 (and growing). Suzanne advised that funds will be budgeted as needed but does not anticipate the costs to be much. Suzanne would like to purchase a “Square” for processing of member dues payments during social events and meetings – this will increase funding and provide the group with another way to process member dues payments. Some of Suzanne’s goals for 2018 are to increase member dues payments to 150+, increase Facebook followers/likes to 600+, offer sponsorships on the Facebook page to business owners (2018 sponsor level \$250 fee); and promote educational events through digital media to engage the community. Suzanne advised the group that for 2018 the fee for Sponsor Level 1 is \$250. This sponsor fee would allow businesses to advertise on the MVACA Facebook and web pages and provide the association with additional means to increase funding.

Suzanne advised the group that on December 23 they posted a comment on Facebook asking the community to respond with comments/concerns. Suzanne stated they received almost 1,000 responses to their request, many of the comments received were concerning speeding on Mago Vista Road as well as cars blocking Mago Vista Road during school dismissal.

Agenda Item 7: Presentation of 2018 Strategic Plan

Chris Lee presented the group with the MVACA 2018 Strategic Plan (Attachment 3). Chris asked that the group review the plan as they are able and that we will discuss in further detail at the February board meeting. Chris advised that as we grow our income we want to “invest” in the community. Chris also advised that statistics will play an important role that the group will keep statistics on how the organization is growing so that we can better manage the organization.

Agenda Item 8: Board 2018 Goals

Chris then asked each of the board members to offer their goals for the coming year. He stated that one of his goals was to find a volunteer to become the Assistant Sports Director to assist Sal LiCausi with the Athletic Committee. Goals of each of the board members/meeting attendees are as follows:

Harry Martin: would like to see the county improve safety by installing traffic calming on Mago Vista Road; Harry would also like to see action taken with the “drug homes” in the community. Harry is working to obtain information on how many potential “drug homes” exist in Mago Vista and should be able to report this information at the February meeting. Harry would like to investigate the possibility of starting a Community Watch Program. Chris Lee asked Harry to report on a community watch program at the February meeting.

Brian Shepter: Brian would like to better understand the objectives of the organization and would like to see more cohesion and direction – Brian gets a sense perhaps that the community does not understand the purpose of the MVACA and that they are here to help the community.

Steve Quirk: Steve’s advised his goals were quite simplistic – that he would like to see cosmetic improvements in the community – dress up its appearance.

Linda Calvert: Linda would like to the organization expand community events, offered that one means to that would be to secure sponsors, Linda would also like to see the community provide access to a community beach (if that would be possible).

Robin Graves: Robin would like to see improvements made to the Mago Vista sign on College Parkway.

Rich Warden: Rich is concerned about the drug activity in the community and the effect on property values – Rich’s goal is to see the drug problem resolved.

Sally Horner: Sally’s goal is the environment and the impact of land use and development on the environment; particularly the Magothy River.

Sandy Fox: Sandy advised that she too shared the goal of understanding the objectives of the organization and more importantly improving visibility of the organization with the community.

Carol Clarke: Carol concurred the concern of speeding on Mago Vista Road and the desire to see the county take action to improve.

Sal LiCausi: Sal would like to better define the mission of the athletic program and better implement the goals with the association. Sal defined that as “what is the mission/purpose”; Sal also said he would like to increase the number of volunteers as well as gain an assistant.

Agenda Item 9: 2018 Budget and Other Business

MVACA Athletic Committee Budget: Chris Lee asked Karen Sale, Treasurer, to present the budget for the MVACA athletic program. Chris also advised the board that Karen will be server as Treasurer for both the MVACA board and the athletic program. Karen Sale provided the board with the 2018 budget statement (Attachment 4) for the athletic program which showed both income and expenses for the program for the 2018 basketball program.

MVACA 2017-2018 Budget: Chris Lee presented the 2017-2018 MVACA budget for vote (Attachment 5). Chris motioned to approve the budget which was seconded by Harry Martin and passed with an approval vote by all board members.

MVACA 2017-2018 Treasurer's Report: Robin Graves provided a final accounting of the 2017-2018 Treasurer's report (Attachment 6) and noted that there was some additional member's dues received in January which were not reflected in the report. The report will be updated to reflect these additional funds and presented at the February board meeting; Karen Sale as Treasurer will be presenting the Treasurer's report at all future board meetings for 2018.

MVACA 2018 Meetings: Chris Lee queried the board as to the future meetings days for 2018; the board agreed to host meetings the third (3rd) Monday of each month at 7:00 pm. Chris also queried the board as to whether to host meetings through the summer (July and August) and all board members were in agreement that meetings should be held throughout the year (there should be no break for summer). Sal LiCausi advised the board that the Harting Farms Homeowner's Association has permitted the Athletic Committee host meetings in their community center at no cost (assuming the space is available) and that perhaps that space could be used for meetings during those months when the school space will not be available.

Athletic Committee Update: Sal LiCausi advised the board that he recently created a Facebook page specifically for the Athletic Program. He created the page as he felt he needed an additional communications outlet that was specifically designed for program and its direct audience; he felt that sharing the basketball program on the MVACA page was directing information to the appropriate audience. Sal advised that he created an "informal" committee this year that meets and shares ideas. Basketball is in full swing and the committee is in ok standing with finances. Sal advised there is much to be done and the group needs to have a serious and well thought our discussion as to future of the athletic program and where it thinks it should be in the future (i.e., whether they offer additional sports etc.) Chris Lee said the key is to get Sal help with the program. Rich Warden thanked Sal for his service and dedication to the program.

MVACA Fundraiser: Chris Lee advised the board as part of the marketing strategy for 2018 the association would host fundraisers. Chris has already spoken to the owner of the Ledo Pizza in Severna Park and they would permit the board to host a fundraiser night. Chris presented a motion to the board to approve a "Ledo Fundraiser night" there was a "consensus vote of approval" for the motion.

Magothy River Association: Sally Horner advised the board that the Magothy River Association will be hosting the annual **State of the Magothy** presentation on Friday, February 23, 2018 at the Anne Arundel Community College.

Summary of Action Items to be reported on at February board meeting:

1. Rich Warden, Brian Shepter and Harry Martin provide report on 501 c 3
2. Harry Martin provide report on how to organize a community watch program

Summary of Motions Presented and Passed:

1. Chris Lee presented motion to approve 2017-2018 MVACA budget
2. Chris Lee presented motion to approve "Ledo Fundraiser Night"

The next meeting of the MVACA is scheduled for Monday, February, 26, 2018, at 7:00 pm in the Belvedere Elementary School Media Center.

Attachments:

1. January 15, 2018 MVACA Board Meeting Agenda
2. The ARC Triangle
3. Strategic Plan – MVACA 2018
4. MVACA Athletic Committee FY18 P&L (July 1, 2017 through January 15, 2018)
5. MVACA Proposed Budget FY18 (July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018)
6. MVACA Treasurer's Report FY18 (July 1, 2017 through January 15, 2018)