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By City Clerks Office at 7:53 am, Aug 15, 2025

Jul 10, 2025 | 📅 MCC Monthly Meeting

Attendees: Elizabeth Lohnes Sarah Bolha Jenne Rayburn ariana.moir@gmail.com
laurencstetson@gmail.com smqualters@gmail.com Jim Bracciale
carrollandco@outlook.com paulcornacchini@gmail.com cliomooock@gmail.com
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Attached files: 📄 MCC Meeting Notice 6.12.25.pdf

No Public Comment.

June Meeting minutes were accepted.

Welcome New Members: Introductions

The group welcomed Paul Cornacchini who was unable to attend the June meeting.

Survey Update

- Melrose Weekly News published an article about the survey this past weekend, a notice from the mayor's office went out, and contact was made with the Melrose superintendent's office to post the press release on the MPS website.
- Social Media/ Email: Sarah has images for the group to post. Everyone should do their part to post personally and in local groups as well! Sarah will duplicate last year's Mailchimp campaign for this year as well.
- Committee members are encouraged to take survey cards and distribute them, particularly at the Summer Stroll (Jul 25, 7–9pm).
- We already have 102 people who have completed the survey, which is great! Last year we only had 115 total.
- The MCC will have a table at the Farmer's Market Thu Jul 17, 1–6pm; Jim, Lily, and Lauren are committed to join.

MCC Branding

- T-shirts are available for committee members to take and wear to events where we want to be visible (e.g. Summer Stroll, Farmer's Market, Victorian Fair). Jim will order more (no ladies cut, larger, square logo).

Victorian Fair

- Last year we had a sign-up sheet with 2 people per shift. Typically 11–4 with set-up and breakdown. It worked well and we should do a similar thing this year.

- The group discussed novelty items and/or swag to hand out:
 - Should we have a large poster for the survey? Last year we had a poster for the raffle. Unclear if the survey will still be open for responses.
 - Jenne will talk to people at the Creative Alliance about their ideas and sharing a table.
 - Something interactive would be great. Spin to win? (Sheri has access to a spinner.) Collaborative/ community mosaic sticker project? Take-home activity?
 - Further discussion is needed.

Student Member Status

- Jenne had a great interview with Aliah Elbaz, a rising senior who has other committee and volunteer experience. Jenne recommends the committee accept Aliah as a member, even though we do want to find a rising junior.
- The committee unanimously voted to bring Alia onto the council. Jim will reach out to invite her to the next meeting.
- Jenne will continue to find an additional rising junior.

Possibility of 2026 Patriotic Celebration

- Jim: Should the committee take active steps towards hosting our own large celebration in the summer or fall of 2026? Some conversations have been had (particularly with Mayor Jen and Lauren Grymyck), but given the nature of an undertaking like this, the committee needs to be on board before we move forward.
- Discussion: in the past it has been raised that the MCC exists exclusively to fund *other* projects. Board members should be aware that there has been discussion in the past regarding the appropriateness of hosting our own events.
- Discussion: Whom to contact first—the city or community performing groups such as the MSO? Would the city even be able to give us an adequate answer about support before the November override? Discussion on the importance of having a vision, timing (July v. September), location (baseball field near the Middle School), the possibility of reaching out to the Bellevue country club to bring their fireworks display downtown, etc.
- Jim and Sarah will have a meeting with the mayor's office to explore ideas.

This was Clio's last meeting. Thank you, Clio, for your participation in our committee!

We will hold a meeting over Zoom on August 14 to further discuss setup for the Victorian Fair.

Upcoming Events

Everyone is encouraged to come, wear black branded T-shirts, and hand out cards with a QR code to the survey.

- Farmers Market: Thu Jul 17, 1–6 pm (Jim, Lauren, Lily)
- Summer Stroll: Fri Jul 25, 7–9pm (Jim, Lily, Paul, Tina)

Action items

- ~~Sarah Bolha~~ will duplicate last year's survey Mailchimp campaign and send that out to our contacts.
- ~~Sarah Bolha~~ will send a message to Chamber members encouraging them to participate in our annual survey.
- ~~Jim Bracciale~~ will reach out to new student member, Aliah Elbaz, inviting her to join us for our next meeting.
- ~~Jenne Rayburn~~ will work on finding a rising junior student member
- ~~Jim Bracciale~~ will look into ordering more branded T-shirts
- ~~Jenne Rayburn~~ will talk to folks at the Creative Alliance about collaborating over table display at the Victorian Fair.
- Lauren will create image to print on poster board for Victorian Fair
- ~~Sarah Bolha~~ will order chalk as a giveaway for the Victorian Fair.
- ~~Jim Bracciale~~ and ~~Sarah Bolha~~ will hold a preliminary meeting with mayor Jen to talk about the possibilities regarding a 2026 celebration.
- ~~Sarah Bolha~~ will set up scheduling document for Victorian Fair

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.
