

Minutes of the Hutchinson Island Preservation Initiative (HIPI) Annual Meeting Held Tuesday, March 30, 2021 Via Zoom

Ralph Jones, President, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Board members participating via Zoom were Dottie Lancie, V.P., Jim Foley, Treasurer, Patricia Jones, Secretary, Directors; Elizabeth Farrar, Hilarie Davis, Paul Laura, John Hodge, Barbara Seaton, and Erica Garwood. Todd Berwick was absent and did not participate.

There were several non-board members that attended the meeting via Zoom.

HIPI ELECTION RESULTS: Ms. Farrar announced the election results for the year 2021 as follows: Dottie Lanci, President; Todd Berwick, Vice President; Barbara Seaton, Secretary; Hilarie Davis, Treasurer; Elizabeth Farrar, Communications Officer; Paul Laura, Environmental Officer. Directors are Jim Foley, John Hodge, Patricia Jones, and Ralph Jones.

Mr. Foley, outgoing Treasurer, stated that a letter to Sea Coast Bank should be prepared stating the change in officers. It will be necessary for Messrs. Jones and Foley, as well as, Ms. Lanci and Ms. Davis, as new officers, to visit the bank for execution of new signature cards. Ms. Jones said she would prepare the letter.

ANNUAL REPORT: Ralph Jones, President, gave the annual report. He stated that due to a few very influential HIPI members, HIPI was successful in holding the maximum four story height limit for Martin County on the Island. The Florida Oceanographic Society was petitioning to exceed the height limit for an observation platform.

Mr. Jones also reported on the last Annual Meeting held March 25, 2019 at the Vince Bocchino Community Center in Jensen Beach. Approximately 100 people attended to hear Don Donaldson, Deputy Martin County Administrator (at the time), among other informative speakers representing significant organizations influencing life on the south Hutchinson Island.

Mr. Jones explained that HIPI was formed by concerned residents interested in making sure that residents of south Hutchinson Island and the general area, are notified and informed of any proposed projects, plans, or proposed adoption of Martin County code changes that will impact the environment and quality of life for residents of the area. He explained due to COVID 19, the planned 2020 Annual Meeting was cancelled.

PAYMENT OF DUES: After some lengthy discussion, Mr. Foley moved, seconded by Ms. Farrar, to keep annual dues at \$20 per year per member. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously, with Mr. Berwick absent.

It was stated that dues may be paid on the HIPI website where they are directly deposited in the HIPI account or they may be mailed to Hilarie Davis, Treasurer at 164 N.E. Edgewater Dr., #2306, Stuart, FL 34996.

Ms. Farrar stated HIPI have approximately 70 – 80 members.

Ms. Seaton stated that all members are not receiving the email notifications of meetings. As an example, her husband, Larry Gray, is not receiving emails from HIPI.

FUTURE PLANS:

Ms. Lanci, as the president, was praised for her energetic approach to HIPI issues, her knowledge of organizations and individuals to be contacted for involvement regarding environmental and code issues, and her dedication. HIPI board works as a team, each member bringing their own talent to the table.

Ms. Davis stated she has a proposal for cloth bags with HIPI logo to be used in lieu of plastic bags at local stores. She suggested that HIPI may wish to make this a HIPI promotion this year for saving the environment.

Mr. Foley suggested the most important project which HIPI has discussed since its inception is to create a President's Council for South Hutchinson Island. He stated this would increase the efficiency of communications with residents immensely, not only from HIPI but to HIPI.

Mr. Laura suggested a HIPI newsletter which could be sent to the President's Council, as well as, via email and website.

Ms. Farrar moved, seconded by Mr. Foley, that HIPI pursue the organization of a President's Council for South Hutchinson Island. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

It was also agreed that Ms. Davis would bring the proposal for cloth bags to the next HIPI meeting for consideration.

OTHER MATTERS: ENVIRONMENTAL: Mr. Laura reported that FOS can see what they were hoping to see from their observation deck of the IRL despite not

being allowed to exceed the four story height limit. He also reported on the County Rising Tide review. He also reported on Lake O. is not currently discharging. The level is at 14.64 ft. which is up from 12. This is due to rains in land and north Florida. The state is working on STA's; Storm Water Treatment Areas and HSR's which are water wells down south of the Lake. The C44 Reservoir/Canal continues to be worked on.

Mr. Laura reported that there is a new report from the Marine Resources Council stating that the habitat has been decreased even though phosphorus and nitrogen levels have been reduced, reducing algae blooms. Due to discharges, there has been a loss in sea grass causing starvation and death of some 400 manatees. The EPA really hasn't done anything per Mr.Laura. There has also been a great influx of herbicides in the IRL from St. Lucie County.

Ms. Davis reported the Kissimmee River is being restored which flows into Lake O. She made the point that progress is being made but many improvements remain to be achieved to relieve pollution of the aquatic environment.

COVID VACCINATION SITE: Ms. Farrar moved, seconded by Mr. Laura, that HIPI sponsor a COVID vaccination site. Upon roll call, the motion carried unanimously.

NEXT MEETING: It was agreed to meet next as a Zoom meeting on Wednesday, April 21st, at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Farrar moved, seconded by Mr, Foley, to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Patricia Jones, Secretary

March 31 2021