



Board of Directors Meeting  
Minutes April 21, 2021

PRESENT: Dotti Lanci, Hilarie Davis, Jim Foley, Barbara Seaton, Paul Laura, John Hodge, Elizabeth Farrar

ABSENT: Todd Berwick, Ralph Jones, Patty Jones

President Dotti Lanci called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

**Elizabeth Farrar made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 30 board meeting. Paul Laura seconded the motion.** Hilarie Davis requested the following additions be included with the March 30 minutes:



**Mrs. Farrar amended her motion to approve the March 30 minutes with these additions. Mr. Laura seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Mrs. Farrar updated the directors on the status of a HIPI-sponsored vaccination event at the Elliott Museum. Mrs. Farrar reported that the Elliott is on board, and she has met with the museum's event coordinator. The proposed dates for the first dose would be June 14 or 16, with the second dose July 12 or 14. Ms. Davis asked if appointments would be required. Mrs. Farrar said that is the hope, but we would know more closer to the event. Those dates have been sent to the Martin Co. Health Department, and we're waiting on final approval. **Ms. Davis made a motion to approve HIPI's sponsorship of a covid vaccination event at the Elliott Museum in June (with a second dose event in July.) John Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Lanci spoke about the importance of following through on HIPI's 2019 plan to spearhead a Martin County Hutchinson Island president's council, patterned after the president's council of HOAs on Hutchinson Island in St. Lucie County. Ms. Lanci asked for volunteers for a committee to work to collect the contact information for each Martin County HOA/POA. After much discussion, the directors agreed that HIPI's guiding the formation of this president's council will be essential component of growing our organization and creating a mechanism for sharing information with the majority of Hutchinson Island residents. Jim Foley volunteered to chair the committee and said he would contact the property management companies. He suggested that several manage more than one property, and one might be interested in sponsoring meeting. Other volunteers are John Hodge, Barbara Seaton and Elizabeth Farrar. Mrs. Farrar reminded the directors that she and Mr. Laura had met with Charles Grande, president and long-standing member of the Presidents' Council of Hutchinson Island, before the pandemic. She has pages of notes about their organization. That group is very interested in a collegial relationship with HIPI and a Martin County Hutchinson Island and have invited HIPI members to many of the pre-pandemic meetings. Mrs. Farrar also said she would send Mr. Foley the spreadsheet with the HOA contact information that previously had been collected. Mrs. Farrar said that some of the information had been collected from filings on Subbiz. **Mrs. Farrar made the motion that HIPI work toward spearheading the formation of a president's council of HOAs on Hutchinson Island in Martin County. Ms. Lanci seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Davis made a presentation suggesting HIPI purchase reusable grocery bags with the HIPI logo to give to members, to use for promotions and to sell. Her presentation included a powerpoint presentation showing a proposed design for the bag and detailing the benefits of reusable grocery bags for promotion and brand recognition. There would be minimum order of 150 bags at ~\$1.45-1.70/bag, plus a \$50-60 one-time set up fee. When some directors expressed concerns at the cost, Ms. Davis suggested that each board member could contribute \$40 toward the cost, instead of using existing HIPI funds. Mr. Foley said he thought it was a lovely idea, but not critically important at this time. **Ms. Lanci made a motion to table Ms. Davis's suggestion that HIPI purchase 150 reusable grocery bags with the HIPI logo. Mr. Foley seconded the motion. The motion passed with Ms. Davis and Mr. Laura voting no.**

Ms. Lanci asked the directors to consider sending a monthly newsletter to keep the membership informed about HIPI's activities and issues affecting Hutchinson Island. She suggested the newsletter need only be one page, emailed around the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month. Barbara Seaton agreed with Ms. Lanci and stated it is important to let members know the organization is reactivating after the pandemic. She also suggested that the website needs to be updated. Ms. Farrar reminded that HIPI had sent quarterly newsletters before the pandemic. She said that usually only Mr. Laura sent her article ideas. She found the ideas, wrote the articles, found the photos, formatted and emailed the newsletter. She asked that if we resume the newsletter, especially monthly, that she will need help. Mrs. Farrar received assurance that others were willing to contribute. Although there was no motion, the consensus was that HIPI produce a monthly newsletter beginning in May that should include a reminder to join HIPI or renew your membership by paying dues. Mr. Hodge suggested the newsletter include a reminder of who HIPI is and what we do.

Ms. Lanci also asked that an email be sent to all members who have not paid, asking them to renew their dues. This email would be sent after the newsletter. Mrs. Farrar estimated that 25-30% of members had paid their 2021 dues. Mr. Foley requested that all directors be sent a list of members, indicating those who have paid 2021 dues.

Ms. Lanci questioned if the newly proposed development in Stuart, the Sportfish Marina and Resort, meets the 40-foot, 4-story maximum height limit. Mr. Laura said he had been in touch with Ben Hogarth, public relations for the City of Stuart, who assured him that the development will not exceed the 4 story height limit. He said Mr. Hogarth said one of the two parking levels would be underground, so above ground will include one level of parking and 3 stories of living. Mr. Laura stated that he trusts Mr. Hogarth and the veracity of his information.

Ms. Lanci stated that she had emailed Tom Freeman who also confirmed that the building will not exceed 45 feet in height. She questioned how 45 feet could satisfy the county height limitations. Laura reminded the directors that some structures are excluded in the calculation of a structure's overall height, like portions of roofs, chimneys, elevator shafts. Ms. Lanci remained concerned that HIPI did not have accurate and complete information and wondered if this development, although it is planned for downtown Stuart, is something HIPI should be worried about as a precedent. Mr. Foley said it is important HIPI get definitive answers. Mrs. Farrar and Mr. Hodge asked if HIPI could request the architectural renderings, with the exact height measurements, as it did with the new FOS project. **Mr. Laura made a motion that Ms. Lanci email Mr. Freeman asking him to explain why the project is planned at 45 feet, instead of 40 feet, and ask for the architectural renderings of the planned project. Mr. Foley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Lanci informed the directors that former HIPI president, Ralph Jones, in a socially distanced ceremony, had presented an award of appreciation to Virginia Sherlock in appreciation for her support of HIPI. Mrs. Farrar asked if there was a photo to include in the newsletter and asked directors to remember to take photos at all events in the future. Ms. Lanci said she would try to get a photo of Ginny and her award early the next week.

Ms. Lanci stated that Barbara Seaton wishes to remain a director but declines to serve as the secretary. Ms. Lanci stated that Patty Jones has agreed to serve as secretary for an additional year. **Ms. Lanci made a motion that the Board accept Ms. Seaton's resignation as secretary and appoint Ms. Jones the 2021 board secretary. Mr. Foley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Lanci stated that Erica Garwood resigned as a director but remains a member of HIPI. Ms. Lanci stated that she believes the board is stronger with its maximum number of directors, 11. She asked the board to appoint Sue Foley to the board of directors. Mrs. Farrar noted that the HIPI bylaws prohibit more than two directors from any HOA. The Foleys and Mrs. Farrar are residents at Hutchinson House. Mrs. Farrar suggested the board could vote to amend the bylaws to allow up to three directors from one HOA. **Mrs. Farrar then made the motion to amend the HIPI bylaws to allow up to three directors from any HOA. Ms. Lanci seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Farrar made a motion to appoint Sue Foley to the board of directors. Ms. Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Lanci reviewed her suggested membership procedures (included as an attachment). Ms. Davis indicated that she is passionate about growing membership in case we need support for a future issue. She said that other organizations often tout their membership numbers. Ms. Lanci then reviewed ideas to recruit additional members (attachment).

Mr. Laura provided an update on Lake Okeechobee. He said that cyanobacteria is now present in Lake O and that Lake levels are very high. As we enter the rainy season, the high lake levels mean there will need to be discharges, probably during the summer. Mr. Laura said he would learn more the next day at the Rivers Coalition meeting, and he would update the board on the latest information after that meeting.

Mrs. Farrar had shared an email with the directors about an environmental camp sponsorship in another part of Florida and suggested this is something HIPI could consider. Mr. Laura informed the Board that he had contacted FOS about a possible HIPI sponsorship of a summer camp scholarship, but that sponsorships for 2021 had closed. He told the directors that we should contact FOS in January 2022 about a summer 2022 camp sponsorship.

Ms. Davis noted that all scholarships for the sailing school summer camp also were filled.

Ms. Lanci stated that the next meeting of the HIPI board of directors would be May 19 at 7:00 p.m. Mrs. Farrar expressed concern that the generosity of Zoom, allowing their meetings to extend well past the free 40 minute limit, may not extend to the May meeting and noted that HIPI may need to upgrade its Zoom account. Ms. Davis suggested HIPI consider using Google Hangout. Mrs. Farrar and Ms. Lanci would investigate meeting options before the May meeting.

**Mr. Laura made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m. Mr. Foley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

# ATTACHMENT

## PROPOSED MEMBERSHIP PROCEDURES

1. Shared membership list is kept by the Treasurer and Communications Officer.
2. Once a month the membership list is reconciled by the Treasurer and Communications Officer
3. New members who do not pay on the website should send the membership form and dues to the treasurer
4. Membership update shared with the board once a month

## Membership Recruiting Ideas

1. Attend other organizations' meetings, let them know about HIPI and give them an opportunity to join
2. Set up tables (when pandemic abates) around town ( ex: Pineapple Festival in Jensen Beach)
3. Work with the President's council when it is eventually set up
4. Encourage family members and friends to join

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

- L. Email with news goes out by the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month to HIPI's membership
2. Everyone is encouraged to contribute news, pictures, and links by the end of the month to the Communications Officer
3. Purpose is to keep membership informed of news that affects our mission of preserving the natural beauty of our island and alert them to any action that may need to be taken.
4. Length should be short enough to encourage members to read it each month rather than delete it unread.