

MINUTES OF THE HUTCHINSON ISLAND PRESERVATION INITIATIVE

MEETING HELD TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2020, 4:00 p.m. SUNTIDE, UNIT 111

President Ralph Jones called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. Board members present were Jim Foley, Paul Laura, Barbara Seaton, and Patricia Jones. Participating by phone were board members Elizabeth Farrar and Hilarie Davis. Sue Foley, advisor to the board, was also in attendance.

ANNUAL MEETING: Elizabeth confirmed that the Elliott Museum is available at 7:00 p.m. on March 31st for the HIPI Annual Meeting. She said she would be returning to the Island next week and would confirm AV equipment and all details for the meeting with Rob Steele at that time.

AGENDA FOR ANNUAL MEETING AND ORDER OF SPEAKERS: Speakers will be presented with Don Donaldson, Asst. County Administrator, first; Kev Freeman of the City of Stuart second, Dr. Valerie Paul, Blue Green Algae Task Force, third, and Jacqui Thurow-Lippisch, South Florida Water Management District.

At the last meeting, it was requested that the Mayor of Stuart, Mike Meier, be invited to speak. He was asked but had a previous commitment and suggested Kev Freeman, Director of Development, or a staffer. Kev was invited to speak and agreed. He was planning on speaking to current pressures for development and would like to present a power point presentation. The board suggested that he should be contacted to discuss the status of the litigation between the City of Stuart and the Army Corps of Engineers regarding discharges from Lake Okeechobee. It was also suggested that each of the speakers be contacted to obtain a summary of what they plan to talk about and to let them know they should provide information on how people can stay informed. It was also suggested that they be told to limit their talks to fifteen minutes. It was also suggested that a bit about their background would be helpful. We would use this information to promote the event on the website.

It was agreed that the theme of this meeting would be “Perils in Paradise”.

It was agreed that a special recognition award would be given to Virginia Sherlock at the Annual Meeting for her tireless dedication and commitment to the environment of Hutchinson Island and surrounding areas, and her unfailing guidance to HIPI.

It was agreed that Elizabeth would send invitations to all the organizations we support such as the Guardians of Martin County, Conservation Alliance of Martin Co., Rivers Coalition, River Warriors, and President's Council in St. Lucie Co. on the Island. Also, to the Oceanographic, the Manager at Publix, Island Marriott, and Hutchinson Shores Resort, the Cumberland Gas Station and Mini Mart. Also it was agreed that all the Presidents of the various HOA's and single family homes should receive an invitation/flyer. E.J. Ewing of Sailfish Point, and the real estate office at the entrance to Sailfish point should be on notice of the meeting.

Newspapers should also be sent a press release a.s.a.p. as they often hold article for filler.

Elizabeth said she would work on a flyer/handout for us to have copied and circulate.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Eleven Officers nominated for election are as follows:

President, Ralph Jones; Dotti Lanci, Vice President; Jim Foley, Treasurer; Patricia Jones, Secretary; Elizabeth Farrar and Hilarie Davis, Co-Communications Officers; Paul Laura, Environmental Officer; Directors Todd Berwick; Erica Garwood, John Hodge, and Barbara Seaton. Election will take place at the Annual Meeting by a vote of all active, eligible members.

UPDATE ON MEMBERSHIP: An update on membership will be given at the next meeting.

OTHER MATTERS: Barbara mentioned that HIPI should receive a report from the County, perhaps Don Donaldson, on the status of the MSTU. Questions may be how much is available and who is determining how it is spent. We know that in the past the Hutchinson Island Coalition (HIC) was working with the County to request projects. The board agreed that we don't want to follow in the footsteps of HIC which is now defunct. Barbara made the point that residents should be made knowledgeable, however, as to who is making these decisions. Can it all be spent on beach nourishment? If not to be discussed at this meeting, when should it be?

NEXT MEETING DATE IS THURSDAY, MARCH 12TH, AT 4 P.M. LOCATION TO BE CONFIRMED AT RIVERBEND, BUILDING 2, 164 N.E. Edgewater Drive, Unit 2103, Barbara Seaton's.

ADJOURNMENT at 5:35 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Patricia Jones, 2/26/2020

