

MINUTES OF THE HUTCHINSON ISLAND PRESERVATION INITIATIVE (HIPI)
MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2022, AT 8:00 P.M.

The Communications Officer, Elizabeth Farrar, called the meeting to order at 8:03 p.m. Secretary Patricia Jones called the roll. Answering present were President Dottie Lanci; Directors Jim and Sue Foley, Barbara Seaton, Ralph Jones; Membership Officer John Hodge. Absent were Environmental Officer Paul Laura and Vice President Todd Berwick.

Approval of minutes: Ms. Foley moved, seconded by Mr. Hodge, to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2022 meeting. Upon voice vote, the motion carried.

President Lanci moved, seconded by Mr. Jones, to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2022 meeting. Upon voice vote, the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Acting Treasurer, President Lanci, reported a balance as of 2-2-22 of \$1,599.02 and a closing balance as of 3-2-22 of \$1,482.69. The difference being \$116.33.

Disbursements or payments to be made were reported as: PayPal \$131.67; IRS on 2-28 of \$248; Zoom (one yr. 6/19/23) \$149.90; Wix \$282.00 (Program thru late 2023).

President Lanci reported that she is working with Mr. Flowers, CPA, to see if HIPI can get relief from paying the IRS income tax and the State of Florida a penalty for not having filed an annual income tax return since HIPI's inception.

Mr. Foley reported giving receipts from the Post Office box to President Lanci. President Lanci reported that former Treasurer, Hilarie Davis, dropped off another key to the Post Office box and a folder with documents.

A discussion ensued as to whether any other existing board member would assume the responsibilities of the Treasurer until we have a newly elected Treasurer. There being no one willing to step up or feeling qualified, President Lanci will continue with assistance from Jim and Sue Foley.

Page 2.

Membership Report: Membership Officer, Mr. Hodge, reported receiving three (3) membership checks; one for \$40 from Patty and Ralph Jones. He said that he mailed 128 membership drive letters plus a membership application on 3-2-22.

The letter gave a brief history of HIPI and its accomplishments and also announced the annual meeting and speakers. Mr. Hodge reported there are 12 new members and 26 paid members. He said there are 13 due dates after March 1, 2021.

President's Council Letter: Mr. Foley asked for Ms. Farrar to edit the membership drive letter in order for it to be sent to the Hutchinson Island of Martin Co. President's Council members. He asked that he review it before it is sent out.

Upgrade Website: Communications officer, Ms. Farrar, moved, seconded by Pres. Lanci, to approve the cost of \$4.75/month to upgrade the website to allow forms and payment submissions to be emailed to more than one person. Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

HIPI Credit Card: Ms. Farrar moved, seconded by Ms. Seaton, to authorize obtaining a credit/debit card for HIPI for recurring payments (Google, Workplace, Zoom, and website). Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Printing of Banner and Flyers Promoting Annual Meeting: President Lanci moved, seconded by Mr. Foley, to authorize the printing of a vinyl banner approximately 3' x 8' advertising the annual meeting to be placed on the Elliott Museum property at the intersection. Also to authorize printing 20 to 25, 8" x 11" color flyers. Upon voice vote, the motion carried.

Annual Meeting 3-30-22, 7:00 p.m. at the Elliott Museum: It was agreed that donations in honor of Maggy Hurchalla to the Friends of the Everglades should be made privately by board members, not by HIPI as an organization.

President Lanci moved, seconded by Mr. Jones, that Ms. Farrar would M.C. the annual meeting. It was agreed that President Lanci would honor Maggy Hurchalla; present an award to Rob Steele, Dir. of the Elliott; and honor Ginny Sherlock all at the beginning of the meeting. Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Page 3.

Setup for Annual Mtg. It was agreed we would need four tables; 2 at the front next to the podium; 2 tables at the entrance to the room; one for registration and membership to be manned by John Hodge, Barbara Seaton, and Patty Jones. The other table would be for water and informational material, if any. Ms. Farrar said she would bring tablecloths. Mr. Jones said he would check with the Elliott to see if they provide tablecloths. President Lanci said she would bring a cooler with ice and water and Mrs. Jones said they would also bring a cooler with ice and water. Sue Foley will monitor the camera setup to record the event.

We did not assign anyone to be timekeeper for speakers.

Speakers: It was asked of Mr. Jones that he ask Don Donaldson to give a brief explanation of the MSTU Tax and its use. Also, Don Donaldson should let Mr. Jones know of any County staff members that will attend to speak and what audio visual needs might be.

Ms. Farrar was going to contact Merritt Matheson and Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch to ascertain their presentation needs and if anyone else will be accompanying them to speak.

It was agreed that projection screen is required for HIPI to show some displays/pictures during President Lanci's opening and closing comments.

It was agreed that Ms. Farrar would extend invitation to Mark Perry at Florida Oceanographic, Hutchinson Shores Resort Manager, and Publix manager. Ms. Seaton said she would find out the new owners/ manager of the Marriott.

NOMINATIONS: Sadly, Jim and Sue Foley do not want to take a board position as Treasurer or President as they are considering moving to California. They are willing to remain on the board as directors at this time.

Mr. Foley said he is concerned about sustainability of HIPI for the future as we have not had any new participation of members. He suggested that we might consider becoming a subcommittee of the Guardians of Martin County as we do have similar concerns. Are we, HIPI, duplicating efforts of the Guardians or other environmental groups?

Page 4.

Ms. Jones stated that HIPI's mission should not be so broad as the Guardians but is to be informed and share information with residents about the Island in Martin County. HIPI has a much narrower prevue for local control and involvement. Mr. Jones said we should be posting notice of our monthly meetings in order that all members may participate if they wish. Then we will have more opportunity for new board members.

Ms. Jones said in accordance with the bylaws, Ms. Farrar must post the ballot with all candidates names on the website and emailed to all members no later than March 20th, 10 days prior to the annual meeting.

It was agreed that the election would take place via email prior to the annual meeting.

Mr. Hodge agreed to ask Jane Belcher if she would be willing to serve on the board as Treasurer and President Lanci would ask her daughter Angela Rantinella to serve on the board, although President Lanci said she knows she is willing. Ms. Seaton gave the name of someone at IRP that she thought would serve.

Next Meeting: It was agreed we should have a short "check status" on arrangements for the annual meeting, via zoom on Wednesday, March 23rd, at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment: Mr. Jones moved, seconded by Mr. Hodge, to adjourn the meeting at 10:34 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Patricia Jones, Secretary

March 14, 2022