

## MINUTES OF THE HUTCHINSON ISLAND PRESERVATION INITIATIVE, INC.

(HIPI) MEETING OF SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2019

The HIPI meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. The meeting was held at the home of Jim and Sue Foley, Hutchinson House, 1555 N.E. Ocean Blvd., Unit 205. Board members present were Ralph Jones, President, Patty Jones, Secretary, Jim Foley, Treasurer, Elizabeth Farrar, External Communications Director, Hilarie Davis, Co-External Communications Director and Barbara Seaton, Director. Also in attendance was Sue Foley, HIPI member and advisor to the Board.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mr. Foley moved, seconded by Ms. Davis, to approve the minutes of the HIPI Annual Meeting held March 25, 2019, and the minutes of the meeting of April 6, 2019. Upon voice vote, all voted aye, none opposed.

**POST MORTUM OF OBJECTION TO PROPOSED CODE AMENDMENT TO THE 40 FT. HEIGHT LIMITATION IN MARTIN COUNTY:** Mr. Foley reported his thoughts as a result of observing the speakers at the April 23, 2019 Board of County Commissioners meeting addressing the issue of Mark Perry and the FOS withdrawing their request for an amendment to the County building code limiting the height of buildings/structures to 40 ft. Mr. Foley felt it was wrong of HIPI to praise the FOS for withdrawing the request. He said a woman named Laurie Prim got up to speak and berated the County Board for considering allowing the increased height and even encouraging the FOS to pursue it. Mr. Foley said HIPI response to FOS withdrawing the request should have never been so complimentary to Mark Perry and FOS. The comments from HIPI to the BOCC should have been to address the issue as a violation of code and the public trust. The 40 ft. height limitation for structures has molded the community character on Hutchinson Island and in Martin County. Mr. Foley said that HIPI should be more thoughtful in its responses and address the issue with professional expertise, factual data and include the support of other environmental groups. He said otherwise we are considered just angry neighbors rather than a dedicated group of property owners considering issues based on precedent and professional expertise and facts.

Ms. Seaton said she does think it is beneficial for HIPI to not only lobby objections to the BOCC or Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) but to also say something positive once in a while to these boards.

Page 2.

It was agreed that HIPI should never contact Gil Smart on an issue in the future as he doesn't report the interview but acts as a journalist. He writes his personal opinion editorializing rather than reporting.

**CROSS TRAINING OF OFFICERS: Keeper of the HIPI Records:**

Ms. Jones stated that Ms. Farrar had purchased a scanner in order that we may scan records that should be kept by HIPI. Ms. Jones stated that she would appreciate not being the record keeper, as well as, taking and preparing official minutes but distribute some of the responsibilities. As Ms. Davis is Co-External Communications Officer and is very computer literate, it was agreed that she would be asked to scan official records and save them electronically. She would be the individual that would respond to public requests for HIPI records.

**Webmaster:** Pres. Jones stated that he feels we need someone in addition to Ms. Farrar to have access to the website and pass words. It was agreed that Sue Foley would be the HIPI Webmaster backup and Ms. Farrar would provide her with passwords and website information.

**Membership Chairman:** It was agreed that Vice President, Dottie Lanci, would be an excellent membership chairman as she is a long time, full time resident that belongs to a number of organizations. Discussion ensued that others would volunteer to assist Ms. Lanci with a membership table occasionally at various events such as Jam'n Jensen, the Stuart Fresh Market, etc. It was agreed, however, that we should have along with the membership table an environmental issue. It was agreed that we should head up a drive to eliminate the use of plastic products on the Island. (More discussion was held under Other Matters in these minutes.)

**South Hutchinson Island Presidents' Council/Association:** It was agreed that Ralph Jones as President of the Suntide HOA and President of HIPI would be the logical person to follow up on this project and reach out to the other HOA presidents on Hutchinson Island in Martin County to form a Presidents' Council or Association. This group would meet quarterly in order to share and discuss issues impacting the Island in Martin County and their HOA's.

Page 3.

**P.O. BOX FOR HIPI:** Ms. Farrar suggested that HIPI establish a Post Office box at the Jensen Beach post office. Mr. Foley stated that attorney, Virginia Sherlock, agreed that HIPI could use her office address. This is the address on the bank account information. He stated that he thinks we shouldn't establish the post office box now as we have very limited funds and little to no use for it at this time. All present agreed.

**OTHER MATTERS: Phase 3 of County Drainage Improvement Project.**

Ms. Davis said she spoke with a Martin County Representative that asked her if HIPI would give the County approval to complete Phase 3 of the drainage/landscaping improvement project on the west side of Ocean Boulevard at MacArthur Boulevard. Phase 3 involves placement of a drainage culvert under the driveway access to the Island Pantry and the driveway also provides access to County property to the south of the Island Pantry. After some discussion, it was agreed that HIPI approval to complete this project is not required and is probably inappropriate as the County is paying for this project with MSTU funds paid by all taxpayers in Martin County on Hutchinson Island. HIPI has no authority to speak on behalf of the taxpayers for this project.

**Plan to Reduce the Use of Plastics on the Island:** Ms. Farrar suggested that HIPI develop a plan to reduce the use of plastics on the Island. This would be a signature movement to identify HIPI as a group concerned with the environment on the Island. It was agreed that she and Ms. Seaton would work together to develop a team to eliminate the use of plastic bags at the grocery stores as well as for mono filament fishing line. The team would reach out to Surf Riders Foundation, Ohana Surf Shop, Publix and the Snook Nook.

It was also mentioned that Ms. Farrar would contact the couple that own the business, LUCID. They had offered using their drones to film any activity on the Island, or part thereof that HIPI would want to publicize to residents.

**HIPI to Sponsor Candidates Forum:** Ms. Farrar reported that HIPI should consider sponsoring a candidate's forum for next year's election of County Board members. She explained that she was involved with a group in Alabama that did this. It would be at least two candidates in an evening. HIPI would prepare and

Page 4.

present the questions. It would be an excellent way for residents to ask questions of the candidates, learn about issues and the candidates' opinions on the issues. This was a suggestion that those present agreed should be considered and followed up on for the near future. It would also be in compliance with the HIPI mission.

**STUART MAGAZINE:** Mr. Foley reported that he contacted Alyssa Moriacci, Managing Editor, Gulf Stream Media Group who publish Stuart Magazine. He told Ms. Moriacci the story of how HIPI was formed by a small core group of Hutchinson Island property owners very opposed to the proposed installation of 382 light pole along Ocean Boulevard. From this group, a great grass roots movement took place to object to the lights and preserve the natural environment of the Island. Ms. Moriacci was very interested and said that they are currently wrapping up the 2018-19 articles. They are starting to plan for the 2019-20 year's articles. She said she would keep the HIPI story in mind as they map out future editorials.

**ATTENDANCE AT UPCOMING BOCC AND MPO MEETINGS:** The MPO meetings

Are on the third Monday of the month. The next MPO meetings are 5/20; 6/17; 10/21; and 12/09

BOCC meetings are on every other Tuesday of the month. The next BOCC meetings are July 15, 16 and 17<sup>th</sup> FY 2019/2020 Budget Workshops

July 30<sup>th</sup> Comprehensive Plan Amendments (adoption)

September 10<sup>th</sup> FY 2019/2020 Budget 1<sup>st</sup> Public Hearing 5:05 p.m.

September 24<sup>th</sup> FY 2019/2020 Budget 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Hearing 5:05 p.m.

October 29 Joint meeting with School Board & City of Stuart 9 a.m. – noon at the John F. Armstrong Wing, Blake Library

Joneses are part time residents in the winter months, leaving for Illinois mid-May.

It was suggested that Erica Garwood, Sue and Jim Foley, Dottie Lanci, and some of the other members and board could choose a meeting to attend and audit

Page 5.

representing HIPI and reporting back via email if any issues arise that HIPI should disseminate to the property owners. Ms. Farrar said she could set-up something on the website that would only go to members where they could sign up to show they would attend a BOCC or MPO meeting. We should all take turns doing this.

Next meeting is an MPO meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. Always check the County website the day before to make sure the meeting hasn't been cancelled. Who can attend the May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting?

**NEXT HIPI MEETING:** No next HIPI meeting date was set at this time. It will be called as needed.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Ms. Seaton moved, seconded by Mr. Foley, to adjourn the meeting at 12:45 p.m. Upon voice vote, the motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Patricia Jones, Secretary

Hutchinson Island Preservation Initiative, Inc.

May 1, 2019

