

May 29, 2018 Meeting Minutes of Hutchinson Island Preservation Initiative

The second meeting of the property owners opposed to the Martin County Planning Organization (MPO) approved decorative lighting and sidewalk project met at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Dottie Lanci, 1931 N.E. Ocean Boulevard. The following individuals were in attendance; Dottie Lanci, Jim Wiswesser, John and Erica Garwood, John Hodge, Angela Rantinella, Jane Belcher, Kathy and Jim Mlscoski, Becky McPherson, Chip Burn, Connie Jantzen, Ralph and Patty Jones, Jim and Sue Foley, Barbara Seaton, Larry Gray, Elizabeth Farrar, Stacy Osborn, Paul Lurn, Hilarie Davis, and Tom Boosinger. The sign in sheet attached does not include addresses but does have phone numbers and email addresses. Each attendee introduced themselves. Of the twenty-two (23) people in attendance, thirteen (13) were first time attendees. Copy of the meeting agenda is also attached.

UPDATE FROM LAST MEETING: Ralph Jones gave an update of actions taken since the last meeting, May 12th. **Website:** Hilarie Davis explained that she set-up a website hipi.pbworks.com. There is descriptive information on the site regarding the project. Contact names, emails and phone numbers to contact to oppose the project. Individuals may also sign an on line petition opposing the project. Hilarie handed in signature pages containing approximately 150 signatures from the website. **Website comments** are attached. She also handed out slips of paper with the issue and website listed. She suggested that we could easily make them and pass them out at functions.

Publix: Dottie reported that she spoke with the public manager, Blake Davis, and he said he would let her know if we could just hand out information regarding the project. They turned down Todd on allowing us to have petitions available for signing. **Island Pantry and Surf Shop:** Dottie said she received approval for us to have a table for information and petitions outside of these two businesses.

Ecological Associates, Jensen Beach: Dottie reported receiving a formal comment from Ecological Associates on the proposed lighting project. They have reviewed the FDOT plans and expressed concern related to the number of lights proposed and the pole height for the fixtures. Dottie asked Joe Scarola, Biologist/Sea Turtle Lighting Specialist if he would speak to the MPO at the June 18th meeting. She said he hedged and didn't commit.

Petitions: A number of people brought petitions. It was determined that we had 394 signatures opposing the lighting project.

Hutchinson House Meeting: Ralph reported that he and Patty were invited by Jim Foley to attend a homeowners meeting at Hutchinson House on May 22nd. The approximately twenty-five (25) residents in attendance were generally not aware of the project. One resident, Ollie Basset, is on the Hutchinson Island Coalition (HIC) Executive Steering Committee and brought Terry Rav, Martin County Public Works Dir. to the meeting to answer questions about the project. The residents of Hutchinson House asked Ms. Rav to let the County know that they don't want the lights. A couple of women said they would like the sidewalk on the west side of A1A. Elizabeth Farrar of Hutchinson House said she had asked their board to send a letter to the HIC stating that they do not represent the residents of Hutchinson House. Also, it was stated that there could be legal ramifications against the HIC for expressing to the MPO that they represent the various homeowners' associations when they don't.

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY PLAN: Elizabeth reported that she had found a 2016 Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Plan performed by FDOT which had as an attachment the sidewalk lighting plan.

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COMMISSIONERS SUPPORT: John Hodge stated we must develop strong, data based arguments as to why this project should be stopped. Paul Lurn also stated we need to build a detailed argument in order to stop the project. John Garwood stated we need to have one of the MPO commissioners introduce a motion to stop this project. Patty asked if it would be worthwhile to invite a commissioner to one of our meetings in hopes of getting him on our side. It was discussed that Commissioners Heard and Clarke seem amenable to our concerns. Dottie had invited them to this meeting but they couldn't make it. Commissioner Ciampi and Jenkins were suggested. Paul Lurn said that he could arrange for two or three of the HIPI members to meet with the individual commissioners.

Everyone agreed that Doug Smith would never support us. Paul also suggested that we look for support from the Federal Fish and Wildlife in Vero Beach.

WRITE TO STATE REPRESENTATIVE: Kathy Miscoski of Sewall's Point suggested that we write to:

State Representative: Gayle B. Harrell, Suite 325, 900 Southwest Federal Highway, Stuart, FL 34994 (District 83)

State Senator Joe Negron, 3500 SW Corporate Parkway, Suite 204, Palm City, FL 34990 (District 25)

MEETING WITH GIL SMART, STUART NEWS: Ralph and John Garwood reported on their interview with Gil Smart of the Stuart News. The article should appear some time over the next week to ten days. Mr. Smart was going to get in touch with the HIC and MPO as due diligence for a newspaper article.

CHEF SHACK: Dottie reported that she and Jim had collected petition signatures at Stuart Beach. She said we should protest that the County is shutting down the Chef Shack which is run by a disabled veteran in order to build something new. She said the Chef Shack is a local attraction to beach goers and tourists.

JUNE 18TH MPO MEETING AT 9:00 A.M. AT 2401 S.E. MONTEREY ROAD: It was agreed that we need to have as many residents as possible in attendance at the next meeting of the MPO. We need a ground swell of objectors in order to impress upon the MPO that residents do not want this unjustified, expensive project. The MPO has been misled to this point by the HIC that this project is wanted by the majority of residents on the Island when in fact, most residents know nothing about it. It was agreed we need to get other HOA's involved with setting up meetings with their residents to inform them about the project.

ROSEWALK: A man walked into the meeting. Introduced himself as Tom Boosinger of Rosewalk development which is a gated community. He wanted information on the lighting project and said he would let the residents of Rosewalk know about the proposed lighting plan.

NEXT MEETING IS SATURDAY, JUNE 16TH, AT 2:00 p.m. AT DOTTIE'S HOUSE, 1931 N.E. OCEAN BOULEVARD.

Minutes prepared by Patty Jones, Suntime Condominium, 772-334-0349

