

## **Minutes of the Hutchinson Island Preservation Initiative, Inc. Meeting**

**Held February 2, 2019 at the Lanci Residence, 1931 N.E. Ocean Boulevard**

The Hutchinson Island Preservation Initiative, Inc. (HIPI) held a meeting at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 2, 2019 at the Lanci residence, 1931 N.E. Ocean Blvd.

In attendance were Ralph Jones, President, Dottie Lanci, Vice President, Jim Foley Treasurer, and Patty Jones, Secretary. Also in attendance were Jim Wiswesser, Sue Foley, Elizabeth Farrar and Paul Laura.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Ms. Farrar moved to amend the bylaws, seconded by Mr. Foley, to approve one annual membership for \$20 and one vote per membership. Member must be a south Hutchinson Island property owner. Upon roll call vote, all present voted yes.

**FEIN NUMBER, BANK CO-SIGNER:** Mr. Foley reported that he did receive the FEIN number, however, he needs Mr. Jones, President, to be a co-signer on the bank account.

Mr. Foley moved, seconded by Ms. Lanci, to approve Ralph Jones as second signer on the HIPI bank account. Upon roll call vote, all present voted yes.

**WEBSITE: WEB ADDRESS IS HIPI.ch2v.com** Ms. Farrar reported that the website had a one-time cost of \$62.35. She also paid a one year unlimited editing fee of \$14.99

**E-COMMERCE VEHICLE: APPROVED AND UP AND RUNNING** as reported by Ms. Farrar.

**RIVERS COALITION ORGANIZATION REPORT –Paul Laura:** Paul Laura explained that the River Coalition is an environmental group with 110 members dedicated to fight for a safe, healthy and ecologically balanced St. Lucie River Estuary and Indian River Lagoon, natural resources that are vital to the economy and quality of life of Martin County and the Treasure Coast. Paul explained that HIPI would benefit from being a member of this group. Paul stated that if the HIPI membership agrees, he would work for HIPI and arrange the membership of HIPI. A long discussion ensued regarding the impact of discharges from Lake

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Okeechobee and the algae blooms that result polluting the receiving waterways which include the St. Lucie and Indian River Lagoon. The Everglades Agricultural Commission (EAA) breaching of the dyke never considered health issues. Paul talked about the need for due process before voting on a bill. He stressed the need to stick to due process and not vote emotionally or politically but be driven environmentally when voting on a bill. Paul passed out a spread sheet he prepared evaluating a bill presented by Rep. Mast, to show whether it addressed all issues. Paul did this to demonstrate the research that should be done beforehand regarding proposed bills. It is not being done now.

Paul suggested that there should be shared adversity among the five counties; Martin, St. Lucie, Brevard, Volusia and Indian River. The State should stop dumping bio-solids in five counties. Paul explained there is a discussion of sharing the algae bloom issue and discharges so that South of Lake O (Everglades Ag Area – EAA), West of Lake O (Caloosahatchee River), East of Lake O (St. Lucie) and North of Lake O (Kissimmee River) share in the adversity. At this time we, East and the West are getting the brunt of the damage.

Paul reported the Agriculture Commissioner is Nicky Freed, who is addressing the bio-waste in Lake Okeechobee. A law was passed in 1998 limiting the amount of phosphorus and bio-waste dumped by farmers into Lake Okeechobee. The law expired in 2016 and made it voluntary on the part of farmers. 2017 was the largest amount of bio-waste recorded in Lake Okeechobee. A discussion ensued regarding the lowering of the water level in Lake Okeechobee as preventative to pollution. Paul reported on adverse effects of doing so. He said a meeting is coming up this month about how low Lake Okeechobee can go. Paul explained his environmental background and that he is a member of Advocacy group for the Oceanographic and board member of Indian River Keepers.

The board discussed the worst and possibly the first time we have experienced the red tide and air pollution on the Treasure coast last year. All agreed that discharges from Lake Okeechobee causing our beaches to be closed and air pollution are a real hot button issue of urgency that HIPI would like to keep residents aware.

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Ms. Farrar moved, seconded by Ms. Lanci, to approve HIPI becoming a member of the Rivers Coalition. Upon voice vote, all present voted yes.

Mr. Foley moved, seconded by Mrs. Foley, to appoint Paul Laura as a HIPI board member and designate him Environmental Officer. Upon voice vote, all present voted yes.

**BYLAWS AMENDMENTS:**

Ms. Farrar moved, seconded by Ms. Lanci, that the bylaws be amended to add the offices of Communications Officer and Environment Officer. Upon voice vote, all present voted aye.

Ms. Farrar moved, seconded by Ms. Lanci, to include the job description for communications officer as just read. Upon voice vote, all present voted aye.

Ms. Lanci moved, seconded by Mr. Foley, to appoint Hillarie and Elizabeth co-communications officers. All present voted aye.

**OTHER MATTERS:**

Ms. Lanci suggested that Joe Bamfi be asked to join HIPI as he would be a tremendous asset. All agreed.

Jim Foley suggested that we create a list of HOA presidents on south Hutchinson Island. This should also include single family home developments .

Ms. Lanci suggested that we object to the MSTU tax. Mr. Jones and others thought we should just inform residents of it. Ms. Farrar said she has placed information on the website as to its history. It was agreed that at the least the County and MPO should make it known to residents what the intended use is and if it is supported by residents.

It was agreed that HIPI should have representatives at their meetings.

**County Meetings coming up are:**

County Board Meeting February 12<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 a.m. - Joneses will attend.

MPO Meeting February 18<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. – Foley’s will attend

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County Board Meeting March 19<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. – it was agreed we would all attend and introduce HIPI to Board and invite them to our annual meeting.

County Board Meeting, April 15<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING; Next** meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 9:00 a.m.

at Jones residence, Sunside Condominiums, 1357 N.E. Ocean Blvd., #111.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Prepared by Patricia L. Jones, Secretary

Hutchinson Island Preservation Initiative, Inc.

February 8, 2019