

## MINUTES OF THE HUTCHINSON ISLAND PRESERVATION INITIATIVE MEETING

HELD WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2021

The meeting was scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom, however, a few members necessary to make a quorum were unable to join the meeting via zoom at 7:00p.m. President Dottie Lanci called the meeting to order at 7:29 p.m. after additional members were able to join the meeting. Answering to roll call were Hilarie Davis, Barbara Seaton, John Hodge, Paul Laura, Ralph and Patty Jones, and President Lanci. (7 present) Absent members were Todd Berwick, Elizabeth Farrar, Jim and Sue Foley. (4 absent)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** John Hodge moved, seconded by Paul Laura, to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2021 zoom meeting. Upon voice vote, the motion carried.

Ms. Davis reported the balance on hand as of this meeting is \$1,578.02. She stated she paid for the P.O. Box renewal for one year.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Hilarie Davis reported that she had the first HIPI Tax Return prepared and filed for the period from the HIPI incorporation through calendar 2020. She said this was done by her friend who is a Florida CPA.

**QUESTIONS FOR GINNY SHERLOCK, ATTORNEY, AND HIPI ADVISOR:** The question to Ms. Sherlock since she has been a legal advisor to HIPI since its inception and very familiar with the HIPI mission was; "Should HIPI remain a 501C3, Not for Profit, or file for tax exempt status as a charitable or educational organization that could solicit contributions for funding projects?"

Ms. Sherlock responded that to be a charitable or educational organization that asks for donations and is tax exempt, would file with the IRS. We could also file a Form 990 with the Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services to collect donations. Ms. Sherlock said that it would be difficult for HIPI to represent themselves as an educational organization. We are really considered a "Civic" organization, not necessarily educational. Ms. Sherlock recommended that HIPI remain a 501C3 not for profit as originally filed and recorded.

Chapter 2 of the Martin County Comprehensive Plan: Ms. Sherlock explained that Chapter 2 of the Comp Plan sets forth the goals, policies and objectives to

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implement the goals. The Martin County Board of Commissioners is planning to take everything out of Chapter 2. They are retaining the four story height limitation and 15 unit per acre density limit in Chapter 2. Ms. Sherlock stated it is her legal opinion they do not need to do this to comply with state law.

Mr. Laura said that the County Board claims they have to do this to comply with new state law addressing recognition of private property rights. He said the County claims they will be sued if they don't do this. He stated that he and others are concerned that this is just the first step to gut Chapter 2 even more in the future.

It was agreed that Paul, John, Barbara, Dottie and Patty would attend the 11-16 County Board public hearing regarding this issue.

President Lanci asked Ms. Sherlock how we replace a board member. Ms. Sherlock said check your by-laws. Motion was made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Hodge that the President should reach out to another board member to address concerns about participation. Upon voice vote, the motion carried.

Everyone thanked Ginny Sherlock for her participation and commitment to HIPI before she left the zoom meeting.

**UPDATE ON MEMBERSHIP:** Ms. Davis and Mr. Hodge reported 91 members. Six new members since last meeting. Can we pay on line???

**UPDATE ON NEW WEBSITE – ELIZABETH FARRAR:** Ms. Farrar was absent, therefore, this matter was tabled to the next meeting.

**UPDATE ON PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL – JIM FOLEY:** Mr. Foley was absent, therefore, this matter was tabled to the next meeting.

**REPORT FROM CONSERVATION OFFICER:** Mr. Laura reported on Rivers Coalition Organization. There will be a report on LOSUM Plan on November 18<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. Appears there will be more discharge. Check Riverscoalition.org for zoom link to meeting.

**STATUS OF HUTCHINSON RESORT TRAFFIC STUDY:** Ms. Lanci reported Lisa Wichser, Martin County Engineer, provided her with the accident report that

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FDOT will use as the basis for their traffic safety recommendations for the section of A1A between the Jensen Beach roundabout and the Hutchinson Shores Resort. Ms. Lanci reported the traffic accident reported was from the period July 16, 2017 to May 7, 2021. In those four years, there were 21 accidents; 7 at night and 14 in daylight. 1 fatality on 4-4-2020 at 9:20 p.m. a moped driver coming from the north to the roundabout hit the curb, lost control and died. There were charges of careless driving with other accidents. Nothing to do with lights per the report and Ms. Lanci. Ms. Lanci reported a pedestrian walking from the resort to the west parking lot was hit in the crosswalk. It was a hit and run. The police caught the driver heading south. Ms. Lanci posed the question "Was the yellow flashing light working?" Another accident involved a driver, driving north on A1A, hit the median and destroyed it for 150 ft. Then the driver abandon the Maserati vehicle.

Barbara Seaton said the Stuart Bridge and approach to the bridge has more traffic and accidents and has many more lights than the Jensen Beach Causeway and the approach along the resort. Lights really do not reduce the number of accidents.

Added safety measures were suggested such as pavement reflectors, better signage, and additional yellow flashing lights.

**ANNUAL HIPI MEETING:** This matter was tabled to the next meeting.

**OTHER MATTERS:** Mr. Jones said that the number of only 19 paid members doesn't add up with our bank balance. Also, do we have the 85 members previously reported? We need a membership list with contact information. Also, we need to send out notices as the deadline for membership dues approaches. Is it March 1<sup>st</sup> annually that our membership dues are due?

**NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME:** It was agreed the next meeting will be December 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at President Lanci's house.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, Mr. Hodge moved, seconded by Ms. Davis, to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 p.m. Upon voice vote, the motion carried all aye.

Prepared by Patricia Jones, Secretary, November

