

MINUTES OF THE HUTCHINSON ISLAND PRESERVATION INITIATIVE MEETING

HELD WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2022

President Lanci called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m. as the Zoom access was not yet initiated. Board members present President Lanci, John Hodge, Angela Ratinella, Paul Laura, Barbara Seaton, Ralph and Patricia Jones. Board member absent was Elizabeth Farrar. Dr. Wayne Maxson arrived at 7:30 p.m.

The Zoom access to the meeting was initiated at 7:18 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mr. Jones moved, seconded by Ms. Seaton, to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2022 meeting. President Lanci stated for the record that the State of Florida has forgiven a \$300 fine levied against HIPI for not filing a tax return prior to 2021. There being no further discussion, the motion carried all aye.

**PROCEDURE TO MAKE MEETINGS MORE EFFICIENT:** This matter was tabled to the next meeting.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Dr. Maxson gave the Treasurer’s report as follows:

Balance on hand as of April 18, 2022	was \$1,938.28;
Receipts since 4/18/22	+ <u>101.66</u>
	\$2,039.94
Disbursements for the period	\$ <u>60.36</u>
Balance on hand as of June 14, 2022	\$1,979.59

Addendum: Disbursements were \$35.00 for the HIPI membership in MCCA and \$25.35 for the new checks using Ginny Sherlock’s address.

A discussion ensued regarding whether HIPI needs a credit card or debit card. It was suggested that Sea Coast Bank may offer a payment program using Zelle. Dr. Maxson said he would talk with Sea Coast Bank about Zelle and if there is a transaction fee and a liability limit. Dr. Maxson also stated concern for personal liability as the HIPI Treasurer and would like to talk with an attorney regarding this. Dr. Maxson moved, seconded by Mr. Hodge, to authorize Dr. Maxson to talk

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with Sea Coast Bank and Ginny Sherlock about the advisability of obtaining a credit card for HIPI. Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT:** Mr. Hodge reported HIPI having 72 members as of June 14, 2022. Mr. Hodge reported five peoples' dues are past due. Mr. Hodge moved, seconded by Mr. Jones, to authorize Ms. Farrar to send a letter/email to these five members. Upon voice vote, the motion carried. Mr. Hodge said he would provide the five names to Ms. Farrar.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT:** Mr. Laura reported that the blue green algae reports have been the best in a long time. He said that Lake O. is down 13 ft. due to dry weather. There have been no discharges at this point. For six weeks straight, the clarity has been good. Martin County has been considering limiting herbicides. The C44 reservoir is working. They have been slowing working it into the system.

**NEW BOARD MEMBER MARY JO ASKEW:** Mr. Jones moved, seconded by Dr. Maxson, to approve Mary Jo Askew as a new HIPI board member. She is a resident of Hutchinson House. Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Askew's email address is [inage123@aol.com](mailto:inage123@aol.com).

**NEWSLETTER; DISCUSSION OF LATEST EDITION AND INPUT FOR FUTURE**

**EDITIONS:** It was agreed the newsletter should be sent quarterly. Also that the next newsletter should include a report on the meeting with Martin County and their request for direction on which of two proposed projects should be constructed using the Hutchinson Island (Special District "A") MSTU funding; River Cove Connector Trail or SE MacArthur Boulevard Crosswalk. It was agreed that it is in conformance with HIPI's mission to present this to the residents. It was agreed the MSTU projects presentation should be discussed at the next meeting including dates for the newsletter publication.

**FUTURE DIRECTION OF HIPI:** This matter has been tabled from past two meetings. Inviting Martin County Commissioner Doug Smith to a HIPI meeting was considered as Hutchinson Island is in his district. Mr. Jones said we should consider whether HIPI should collect feedback on issues and then pass it along to the MC Board or should HIPI provide MC contact information for residents to

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send their opinions directly to MC?

Having HIPI board meetings open to the public on a set schedule was discussed. Ms. Jones stated that in order to share information and even receive information from audience members attending, open meetings would grow our reputation and membership. It would be a more professional and traditional way for any organization to conduct its business.

Paul suggested a compromise of an open meeting being held only In September or October. It was agreed that this matter would be postponed to the August meeting.

It was agreed that Ms. Seaton would contact Mr. O'Brien provide contact information for Hutchinson Shores Spa and Resort and the Island Marriott for our contact list.

**RURAL LIFESTYLE AMENDMENT:** President Lanci said she would contact Ms. Farrar to send an email blast and link on website that MC meets Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup> to vote on the Rural Lifestyle zoning code amendment.

**HIFI'S INVOLVEMENT WITH OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS:** HIPI is a member of the Martin County Conservation Alliance. There are many environmental groups which HIPI as interacted with such as Friends of Martin Co.; Guardians of Martin Co. (Greg Brahn Peter Conzi); Rivers Coalition; Friends of the Everglades (Eve Samples). It was agreed that they should all be on our mailing list, email and website.

It was agreed that HIPI and the other organizations can help each other with major issues, however, Ms. Jones pointed out that the bylaws, Article 3: Standards state: "HIPI must be entirely unconnected with and administratively independent of any other organization." Mr. Hodge said he would like to make sure the members of the President's Council are included on our contact list.

**NEXT MEETING DATE WAS SET FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3<sup>RD</sup> AT 7 P.M. AT PRESIDENT LANCI'S RESIDENCE.**

**MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 9:24 p.m.**

Minutes prepared and submitted by Patricia L. Jones, August 2, 2022

