

MINUTES OF THE HUTCHINSON ISLAND PRESERVATION INITIATIVE (HIPI)

MEETING HELD THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2023 AT 2:00 P.M.

President Dottie Lanci called the meeting to order at 2:23 p.m. Board members present at her home were Wayne Maxson, Angela Rantinella, Mary Jo Askew, John Hodge, Ralph and Patty Jones. Elizabeth Farrar participated via Zoom. Paul Laura and Barbara Seaton were absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Dr. Maxson moved, seconded by Mr. Hodge, to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2023 meeting. Upon voice vote, the motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dr. Maxson gave the Treasurer's Report for the period 2/7/23 through 3/9/23 as follows: balance on hand as of 2/7/23 of \$1,922.44; receipts of \$180.00; disbursements \$300 (accounting fees for Flowers paid by WSM and reimbursed by check to WSM); leaving a balance on hand as of 3/9/23 of \$1,802.44. It was agreed that the secretary, Patty Jones, would continue to file the HIPI Annual Report.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Mr. Hodge reported six new members. He has been working with Elizabeth to edit membership list for current members only. They are going to eliminate names and contact information for those that have not responded to the membership drive this current year, March 1, 2023.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT: Ms. Farrar reported that 196 people received the newsletter. She included the President's Council. She also emailed the President's Council members asking them to update the list after all the HOA elections. President Lanci requested that all the various environmental organizations that HIPI belongs to and participates with should be emailed our newsletter and annual meeting flyer.

AMENDMENTS TO HIPI BYLAWS: Ms. Farrar moved, seconded by Dr. Maxson, to ratify the Bylaws to show the approval date of 10/13/18 as reflected in the HIPI records. Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Farrar moved, seconded by Dr. Maxson, to amend the Bylaws Article 6, B. Officers by removing the Communications Officer as an elected position. Discussion proved that this position requires special skills and therefore should be

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appointed by the board of directors. Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Farrar moved, seconded by Ms. Rantinella, to amend the HIPI Bylaws Article 6, D. Term of Office, #2 and #3 relating to the term limits of elected officers. During discussion of the motion, it was agreed that term limits were not required as an annual election if required of all elected officers. Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

SIDEWALK REPAIR NORTH OF PUBLIX: President Lanci reported that HIPI was successful in reporting the seriously damaged/deteriorated sidewalk north of the Publix north property line parallel to the west side of Ocean Boulevard. FDOT has issued a work order through its subcontractor that maintains the Ocean Boulevard right of way. They will contact Patty Jones via email regarding status.

PROPOSED DREDGING ON ISLAND: Ms. Rantinella reported receiving a letter requesting HIPI's support to object to the proposed dredging of mangroves in the IRL to widen the waterway to allow larger boats access to docks at the River Watch residential development on Aqua Raw Road in St. Lucie County on the Island. There are 30 to 60 homes behind Cumberland Farms. They would dredge out boat slips, ruining plants, fish and manatee birthing areas.

Mr. Hodge said he would like to exclude himself from a vote on this issue as he knows the parties involved personally. Discussion ensued that HIPI is an educational and information disseminating organization for the island in Martin County. Some board members felt HIPI should not take a stand on issues outside Martin County. The request came from the POA of River Watch.

Mr. Jones moved, seconded by President Lanci, to table this matter until our environmental officer, Paul Laura, returns and can provide more detailed information on the dredging issue. Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW PROCEDURES FOR NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Nominations for officers are: Angela Rantinella for President; Ralph Jones for Vice President; Dr. Wayne Maxson for Treasurer; and Patricia Jones for Recording Secretary. Ms. Farrar said the ballot will be posted on the HIPI website and

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emailed to all members by March 12th, ten days prior to the annual meeting (3/22/23) where the election takes place.

ACCESS TO HIPI GOOGLE EMAIL: President Lanci said she has never had access to the HIPI Gmail account nor have the other board members. Ms. Farrar stated it is easy and said it's a matter of logging into hipi.stuart@gmail.com and entering the password. Ms. Farrar said she would work with President Lanci to make sure she has access to the hipi website email.

PLANS FOR TH ANNUAL MEEING 3/22/23: It was agreed that the speakers should each have ten minutes; Jim Gorton, Martin County Public Works Direction; Jessica Gartland, Martin County Director of Coastal Management; and Sandra Thurlow, Author and Martin County Historian.

President Lanci asked that board members distribute flyers when shopping and about the Island. **It was agreed that board members would meet at the Elliott at 6 p.m.** Ralph and Patty will bring water. John and Patty will man registration table. It was agreed we would have the tables outside the entrance to the meeting room. Elizabeth will bring table cloths, agenda, some newsletters, membership forms, question index cards and pens in addition to audio/visual equipment. Ms. Farrar stated to Mr. Hodge that she needs a clean final membership list from him.

NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE: After discussion, it was agreed we should override previous board action to limit the distribution of the newsletter to members only. It was agreed by the board that it is valuable to have our newsletters posted on our website to achieve our mission of informing residents in Martin County on Hutchinson Island of current and upcoming issues affecting the quality of life for humans, plants and animals. Ms. Jones moved, seconded by Ms. Rantinella, to post our newsletters on the HIPI website. Upon voice vote, the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted on March 15, 2023,

Patricia Jones, Recording Secretary

