

## Hutchinson Island Preservation Initiative (HIPI) Minutes

Meeting Held February 2, 2022 Via Zoom

President Dottie Lanci called the HIPI board meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Board members answering to roll call were John Hodge, Barbara Seaton, Patty and Ralph Jones, Jim and Sue Foley. Board members absent were Elizabeth Farrar, Todd Berwick and Paul Laura.

**APPROVAL OF JANUARY 12, 2022 MINUTES:** The approval of the 1/12/22 minutes was tabled to the next meeting.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Since the resignation of Hilarie Davis, Treasurer, from the board, Pres. Lanci is carrying on the job of the Treasurer with help from Jim and Sue Foley. President Lanci met with Robert Flowers, CPA, who was recommended by Ginny Sherlock. Pres. Lanci reported that Mr. Flowers said HIPI doesn't owe any taxes to the IRS or a penalty. He will write a letter to the IRS and to the State of Florida regarding the late fee/fine of \$300. Pres. Lanci said she would forward a copy of the letter Mr. Flowers prepares to the board upon receipt. Mr. Flowers said he will not charge HIPI for his services.

In the future, HIPI will need to file a tax return as a Not for Profit, annually no later than April 15<sup>th</sup>. It was agreed by the board that with the hopes of a new treasurer being elected in March, HIPI would continue using the accounting services and advice of Mr. Flowers for the remainder of this fiscal year. With regard to the Annual Report due May 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Jones said that he has filed this report annually since our inception and that he and Patty donate the filing fee \$61.25. The report consists of the HIPI mailing address, FEI number, and a listing of officers. This list still includes Hilarie Davis, Treasurer. and Todd Berwick as VP. Who will run for these positions and will the current remaining board members run again in the upcoming election?

**UPDATE ON PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL MEETING:** Mr. Foley reported that out of a possible 34 HOA President attendees, there were 14 HOA's represented and present. Just under 50%. Jim thought it was a good meeting. Ralph said that Jim did a great job of running the meeting.

Jim said they started out with about 15 minutes of networking and then discussed similarities. It was interesting that almost all the buildings are approximately the

Page 2.

same age and experiencing similar structural problems with spalling concrete and deteriorated rebar due to the harsh salt water environment. He said they really liked the meeting and an opportunity to discuss Island related issues. Jim said there was a lot of representation from IRP, which has 16 individual HOA's. There was a Swiss woman present that represent a few issues for all the IRP HOA's such as security and garbage collection.

Jim said that the Elliott was very gracious with providing a great meeting room, setting up the chairs and offered audio/visual equipment, a podium and microphone if needed. They have also agreed to allow HIPI to hold its annual meeting this March 30<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup>. Rob Steele, Director of the Elliott, gave a brief welcome and information about the Elliott to the President's Council.

Barbara said that Rob is just doing a brilliant job with programs and exhibits. Jim suggested that HIPI award the Elliott with an award for their outstanding community service similar to the one given to Ginny Sherlock. Barbara moved, seconded by Jim, that HIPI award the Elliott Museum a "Community Contribution Award". Upon voice vote, the motion carried. Jim said he would purchase the award for presentation at the March, 2022 Annual HIPI Meeting. It was agreed by the board that this award would not be an annual mandate for HIPI but only as warranted to an individual or organization.

Jim said he hoped the President's Council would have formed an organizing committee but it didn't happen. It will still remain on Jim to pick the next date and organize another meeting for them. They should be informed of the new website for HIPI, annual meeting when organized, and new newsletter.

**UPDATE ON NEW WEBSITE:** In the absence of Elizabeth, this matter was tabled to the next meeting. It was noted by Sue Foley that Elizabeth has sent a number of emails to the board regarding the website, membership list and newsletter articles late this afternoon. It was agreed we would all follow up on these emails and respond via email a.s.a.p. It was stated articles need to be written for the newsletter by the following and submitted to Elizabeth a.s.a.p.:

FDOT LIGHTING SAFETY STUDY - Patty Jones

PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL MEETING - Jim Foley

Page 3.

CONSERVATION – Paul Laura

MEMBERSHIP – John Hodge

ANNUAL MEETING – Dottie

**MEMBERSHIP LIST UPDATE:** John Hodge agreed to be membership chairperson. He reported that Elizabeth had provided a spread sheet of individuals that were members or are currently members. Due to Covid, it has been impossible for two years for HIPI to hold its annual meeting and solicit new members. John reported he met with Patty who provided a number of names, addresses and emails from lists she had over the past four years. John populated the spreadsheet with the additional names and information for a total of 140. Patty suggested that this should be called a “Membership Drive List”. The individuals on the Membership Drive list should receive both an email and snail mail letter stating HIPI’s mission, accomplishments, website, and invitation to the annual meeting and membership coupon at the bottom to be mailed to HIPI with their \$20 check. The letter should be three or four paragraphs, one page, with membership coupon at the bottom. This letter should go out email and snail mail no later than 2/28. After the annual meeting, approximately 4/15, a 2022 Membership List can be finalized, circulated to the Board and updated every month thereafter. The bylaws say that the Communications VP, Elizabeth, is responsible for keeping the membership list. This can be done with the provision that John will collect new member’s info via hard copy and work with Elizabeth to combine what she receives while managing the website.

It was agreed that Patty would draft a “Membership Drive” letter for review and edification by Board members a.s.a.p.

Dottie asked if we are members of Friends of Martin County. It was discussed that married couples should each pay \$20 if they each want to be a member and eligible to run for office and vote.

**CONSERVATION NEWS:** This report was tabled in the absence of Paul Laura.

**PLANS FOR ANNUAL MEETING:** Ralph reported that the Elliott offered March 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup> at 7 p.m. for the Annual Meeting. He said HIPI may have to

Page 4.

pay for an attendant since they are usually closed at this time of the day. The board members agreed the meeting should be either on March 30<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup> dependent on availability of the three speakers; Mayor Merritt Matheson, City of Stuart; Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch, S. FL Water Management Dist.; Don Donaldson, Martin County Administrator. If Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch isn't available, it was agreed Dr. Valerie Paul should be invited. Dottie said she would contact Paul Laura to invite Mayor Matheson and Ms. Lippisch or possibly Dr. Paul. Ralph will invite Don Donaldson. The speakers need to be finalized a.s.a.p. in order that they may be mentioned in the membership drive letter and in the article for the newsletter and on the website. These will be our promotional advertisements for garnering attendance at this year's annual meeting.

**MPO CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) 2/2/22 MEETING:** Patty reported attending the CAC that morning at 9 a.m. at the Martin County Board Room. FDOT gave the same report via zoom that they had given to HIPI in early December, 2021 regarding the Safety Study for SR A1A NE Causeway Blvd. to Hutchinson Shores Resort crosswalk. Patty was the only speaker and they allowed her to ask her questions while FDOT was still on the phone. The CAC has this as an information item only on the agenda. They had no questions. Patty explained she is a member of HIPI, the HIPI mission is to preserve the natural environment and to inform residents of anything new planned on Island that may jeopardize it. Patty asked FDOT, Benazir Portal, FDOT consultant for the project, if the lights mentioned from the resort crosswalk to the roundabout would be street lights, how many, would they be on both sides of the street, and how tall would the lights be. Also, HIPI is interested to know the funding arrangement with the County and whether or not MSTU funds will be used. The rest of the report related to low impact traffic calming devices as reported to HIPI previously. Mark Plass, FDOT, was also on the call, just the two FDOT reps participated. Mr. Plass said that the lights would be only on one side of the street. Which side, number or type was to be determined. Funding sources or sharing between the county and state was yet to be determined.

Page 5.

There will be a similar presentation on 2/7/22 at 9 a.m. to the MPO Technical Advisory Committee. Patty said she would attend. Please let her know any other questions you may have prior to the meeting.

**ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD:** It was agreed by the board that HIPI should nominate itself for the Environmental Stewardship award as reported to us by Elizabeth in an email. Barbara also said that each member and board member could nominate HIPI as an individual. The board member agreed to do so individually but would Elizabeth also nominate our own organization.

**TO DO LIST AND NEXT MEETING:** It was agreed that while our president Dottie is out of town, we will pursue with haste our individual assignments as follows:

1. Confirm speakers for annual meeting;
2. Send out Membership Drive Letter announcing annual meeting and website;
3. Newsletter articles
4. Launch New Website

Next formal board meeting date is Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in person at President Lanci's home.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by Patricia Jones, Secretary

February 5, 2022