



Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association

Minutes March 12, 2016

Directors Present: Todd Brady, Susan Bryson, Barbara Crown, Pat Feighan, Donna Halacoglu, Jim Laethem, Nancy LaMastus, David Martin, MaryAnn McLane, Melanie Most, Denne Osgood, Harold Stieber, Dennis Szymanski;

Excused: Jerry Freeman, Mike Hilla, Carol Johanson, Art Koster, Kathy O'Connor, Leonard Verlinden, Rosemary Wiczorek, Lois Whipple;

Guests and Members Present: Artie Bryson, Steve Gartland, Dan LaMastus, Denise LaValley, Brett Miller, Linda Schoonover, Joanne Shirkey, Jerry Thiel, Cindy Valentine.

Denne Osgood brought the meeting to order at the Lion's Hall at 9:32 am with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The February meeting minutes were presented. **Pat Feighan made the motion to approve the February meeting minutes, MaryAnn McLane seconded; motion carried, minutes to be placed on file.**

Executive Committee Reports

Treasurer Report: Harold Stieber reported the balance in the checkbook for February 29, 2016 was \$13,786.70, with total cash on hand being \$36,539.85.

Pat Feighan made the motion to approve the February treasurer's reports; MaryAnn McLane seconded to approve; motion carried, reports to be placed on file.

Secretary Report: Donna Halacoglu stated that she has received 378 paid memberships, and adding the old club at 162 we are currently at 540 members. The HISCFA needs to send the Old Club an invoice for their memberships.

Communications: Donna Halacoglu stated there was nothing further to report on this topic.

Government Affairs: Pat Feighan stated there was a meeting on the proposed bridge this past week (March 9, 2016) for the community to attend. Additional information has been posted to Nextdoor to share with the community as well. The last day to get comments submitted to the respective organizations is March 19th to the DEQ, and April 8th for the Army Corps of Engineers. The video of the bridge meeting was uploaded and shared on Monday March 14, 2016. Artie Bryson stated the roads are going to be completed and they're going to put a cap on the roads near the post office. Cottage Lane and roads near the golf course are also going to be completely overhauled in a couple of years. There is a community action to form a committee for Alzheimer's and Dementia care for downriver residents. There is a flyer on Nextdoor and an article in the Voice newspaper for the public forum at the Washington Life Center at 6pm on March 15th.

Bridge meeting video: <http://youtu.be/OtrrA9MINKM>

Voice News article for Dementia/Alzheimer's forum:

<http://www.voicenews.com/articles/2016/03/08/life/doc56d9b1b67470b089894427.txt?viewmode=fullstory>



Browne's Field (upkeep and future development): Pat Feighan and Jim Laethem reported that it's time for a Spring Cleanup of the field. Artie Bryson stated that the Island Cleanup date is tentatively scheduled for the first weekend in June. Barbara Crown stated that Bob Williams has the capability to create drawings, so he would be willing to assist with creating drawings for the field restrooms/water upgrade. The next road cleanup is to occur sometime after the next HISCFA meeting on April 9th. The dates of April 16th and April 24th are potential dates for the road cleanup. Jim Laethem is going to establish the date.

Browne's Field Rental: Rosemary Wiczorek was not present at the meeting, but Brett Miller is going to work on the documentation and rental agreement.

Advertising Sign: Barbara Crown stated the contracts have gone out, and there are 2 new spaces to be filled. There are 22 paid advertisers secured for the Delta News for 2016. A main story for the Delta News for 2016 has been requested.

Community Relations: On Thursday March 9th, 2016, the Walker/McLane residence caught fire on Columbine. Pat Feighan has been in contact with the Walker/McLane family, and they have stated they didn't have homeowner's insurance. Susan Bryson stated that there will be a collection at the St. Patrick's Day party taking place at the Lion's Hall on March 12, 2016. Also, the CATTAILS have committed that part of the proceeds from the party will go to the family as well. **Pat Feighan made a motion to make a \$500 donation to the Walker Family; Dennis Szymanski seconded; all in favor, motion carried.**

Special Events: Jerry Thiel has assisted with organizing the Harsens Island Car Show which is scheduled to take place on July 16, 2016. Jerry stated that NAPA Auto Parts in Algonac will pay for half the trophies that will be handed out as prizes, including the Best in Show trophy. Hats will also be provided for volunteers at the car show and also be given away during the show. Advertising for this car show will be in the publications by Hagerty as well as Cruisin' News. Jerry has also collected about \$500 worth of goods. For additional information, the web address is: <http://harsensislandcarshow.weebly.com/>. There are goody bags going to be handed out to the first 100 people in attendance, in addition to a 50/50 and a raffle of car washing supplies and gift certificates. Barbara Crown and Dennis Szymanski are assisting Jerry with this committee.

Guest Speaker: Brett Miller, Attorney, Butzel Long, 501(c)(3) & Rental Contract

Currently the HISCFA is registered as a 501(c)(4) organization. The primary benefit of changing the organization to a 501(c)(3) is that it can potentially increase donations from private individuals, companies, and foundations, and also makes it easier to obtain grants. Companies and foundations generally won't even consider donating to 501(c)(4) organizations. The way this change from a 4 to a 3 is going to take place, is to create a new HISCFA as a 501c3 and then merge the old HISCFA into the new HISCFA. Only 501(c)(3) organizations have a property tax exemption in state of Michigan, and right now HISCFA does not pay property taxes. Some portions of the statute grandfather organizations, and HISCFA could possibly be grandfathered which could decrease costs of transfer taxes and reduce the potential for issues with the township. The budget for changing to 501(c)(3) status could be a \$7,000 - \$8,500, but it will be worth it to weigh the cost-benefit options.

Rental agreement is being rolled into the cost estimate to convert over to 501(c)(3) status. Wording can be discussed and worked out to make sure there are no issues with indemnity and multiple bookings. Turnaround for completion can be a couple weeks once it is started.

Barbara Crown suggested that the Treasurer take a look at the finances to consider the cost of completing the changeover to 501(c)(3) status.



OLD BUSINESS

- *Liquor Licenses for 2016 Events (car show, Field Day, bonfire):* Harold Stieber will be handling getting the liquor licenses for the events.
- *Water Station repairs:* Dennis Szymanski stated that John Horvath would donate approximately \$250 worth of materials, and the HISCFA will pay for \$250 worth of other materials. **Pat Feighan made the motion to allocate \$500 for the water station repairs, Jim Laethem supported; all in favor, motion carried.**
- *Committee Assignments:* This item will be tabled until next month when most of the committee members return from being out of town.

NEW BUSINESS

- *501(c)(3) project:* Pat Feighan asked the floor whether this is something we would want to pursue. Harold Stieber is in favor of analyzing the finances to see if it is feasible. Susan Bryson mentioned that people would be more likely to submit donations if the donations are tax-deductible. Denne Osgood suggested putting everything together and send it over to Butzel Long to look it over and submit it. **Pat Feighan made the motion to move forward to create the HISCFA 501(c)(3), David Martin seconded; all in favor, motion carried.** Pat, Denne, and Harold will be on a committee to discuss.
- *Pavilion contract rewrite:* Pat Feighan stated that he would make the rewritten contract available at next month's meeting for discussion.
- *HISCFA Director T-Shirts:* Barbara Crown will look into getting shirts made to identify HISCFA directors at future events.

Additional comments from directors or guests:

- ✓ Joanne Shirkey mentioned there will be a primary election in August, and then the presidential election in November. Two trustees are no longer going to run in the fall, so the deadline to fill out papers to run for township office will be April 19th.
- ✓ MaryAnn McLane stated there are only 2 applicants for scholarships this year. Scholarship applications were due this week.

David Martin made the motion to adjourn, Pat Feighan seconded. All approved; meeting adjourned at 10:43 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Most, Recording Secretary