



## Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association

Minutes May 14, 2016

**Directors Present:** Todd Brady, Susan Bryson, Pat Feighan, Jerry Freeman, Donna Halacoglu, Art Koster, David Martin, MaryAnn McLane, Melanie Most, Kathy O'Connor, Denne Osgood, Harold Stieber, Dennis Szymanski, Rosemary Wieczorek, Lois Whipple;

**Excused:** Barbara Crown, Mike Hilla, Carol Johanson, Jim Laethem, Nancy LaMastus, Leonard Verlinden;

**Guests and Members Present:** Greg Bischer, Ilene Bischer, Jeanne Burczyk, Dave Carruthers, George Covalle, Neva Covalle, Roger Favrow, Sandy Favrow, Barb Feldman, Steve Gartland, Kelly Glowski, Jerry Thiel.

Denne Osgood brought the meeting to order at the Lion's Hall at 9:00 am with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The April meeting minutes were presented. **Patrick Feighan made the motion to approve the April meeting minutes, David Martin seconded; motion carried, minutes to be placed on file.**

### Executive Committee Reports

**Treasurer Report:** Harold Stieber reported the balance in the checkbook for April 30, 2016 was \$40,961.19, with total cash on hand being \$63,743.39.

**Patrick Feighan made the motion to approve the April treasurer's reports; Dennis Szymanski seconded to approve; motion carried, reports to be placed on file.**

**Secretary Report:** Donna Halacoglu stated that she has received 600 paid memberships to date, and adding the Old Club at 167 there are currently 767 paid members. Donna looked into the past members from 2015, and only 103 people that were members in 2015 have not yet renewed. Donna is looking to resign from the position of Executive Secretary at some point, so if anyone is interested please speak with a director for information regarding the position.

**Communications:** Donna Halacoglu mentioned John Hackett has passed away. Donna recommended that the Association send a group sympathy card to his wife Carol. A card was passed around for everyone to sign.

**Government Affairs:** Patrick Feighan stated that there has been no action by the DNR or DEQ regarding acceptance or denial of the proposed bridge permit application. The application deadline date has come and gone for the board positions at Clay Township. A meeting took place between Artie Bryson and DNR directors and other personnel, and arrangements will be made to provide a police helicopter ride for a tour of the island so that future decisions can be made with regards to potential grants.



Browne's Field (upkeep and future development): A number of items need to be addressed regarding Browne's Field. Items to be addressed are as follows:

- Pond dock / raft – the choice was to keep the floating dock, install a permanent dock, or remove the dock altogether. For now, the decision is to remove the dock due to safety concerns. Susan Bryson suggested that, at a later date, Bob Bryson might be able to utilize some existing docks in his possession.
- Baseball diamond – the field needs to be raised 2-3 inches, grading, bleacher seat boards, backstop, etc.
- Faucets and drains – these items are needed at the water station. New, economical hardware is being requested.
- Roof on water station – all of the materials have been collected. All that is needed is dry weather and a schedule. Minimal costs are needed to complete this task, as well as a few small miscellaneous items.
- Sell water tank and pump – long ago, the association purchased a 250 gallon water tank and pump to service Browne's Field. Now that city water is hooked up to the pavilion, it is no longer needed. The recommendation is to find out how much was spent on it and decide how much to attempt to sell it for a reasonable amount to recoup some of those costs.
- Volleyball court – another load or two of sand is required to fill in the court and the horseshoe pits.
- Flower beds – flower beds near the flagpole and gazebo need to be planted and weeded. Donna Halacoglu and Rosemary Wieczorek have volunteered to take on this task.
- Park and Ride – Jerry Freeman has volunteered to do the weed whacking at this location.
- Replace boards at tennis court and playscapes – some need repair or replaced; volunteers required.
- Moving picnic tables to the field – the tables could use a coat of seal prior to moving them into place.
- Tennis courts and pickleball courts – maintenance needs to be finished: two courts need to be properly patched, a top coat for a smooth surface, lines repainted, fence needs to be painted, stone put along the outside, and wood and nets replaced. A local contractor agreed to donate \$3,000 worth of labor.
- Put the nets up on the basketball hoops – needs to be completed.
- Hang the tether ball on the pole – needs to be completed.
- Doggie-doo pots tended – George and Barbara Crown are currently handling this.
- Weekly trash removal – Patrick got with Emterra and has discussed trash removal at the end of the road. A couple people mentioned spraying trash with ammonia will keep the raccoons away. Patrick recommended either building a cage, or buying a larger receptacle to roll out to the end of the road.
- Find a new home for putt-putt golf – it's nice to have, but is not used very much. The recommendation is to find the golf set a new home (H.I. Lions?).
- Old red barn needs repairs – Dennis and Patrick are going to assess.
- Adopt-a-Highway – a good job was done along the stretch of highway allocated for the group, but the property near Browne's Field did not get addressed during this event.

**David Martin made the motion to approve \$10,000 to address the Browne's Field items listed above; Dennis Szymanski seconded; all in favor, motion carried.**

Browne's Field Rental: Rosemary Wieczorek stated that there are several rentals scheduled for 2016.

Advertising Sign: The sign is completely filled and sold out.

Delta News: The feature story for the cover of the 2016 Delta News is going to be the Krispin Drain project.



Community Relations: The Adopt-a-Highway was a success yet again this year. Make note that for next year, members need to address the road along Browne's Field as well as the section of highway allocated to the organization (Green Drive).

Special Events: Jerry Thiel has assisted with organizing the Harsens Island Car Show which is scheduled to take place on July 16, 2016. For more information visit: <http://harsensislandcarshow.weebly.com/>. Sterling Heights Dodge donated a \$300 Canon printer for a raffle prize. Currently only 10 applicants have pre-paid, but Jerry mentioned that most applicants are typically last-minute entrants. Jerry also stated that he will be doing some advertising at upcoming car shows to drum up more interest in the car show. He also donated \$100 of his own money towards this event. NAPA Auto in Algonac donated half the money needed for trophies for the event.

501(c)(3) Committee Update: Pat, Harold and Denne participated in a committee to get the ball rolling on the 501(c)(3) for the association. In order to facilitate the 501(c)(3), some small changes needed to be made to the articles of incorporation and bylaws. Once those changes are made, the filing should go smoothly and should get approved in a timely fashion (within a few weeks). The changes to the articles of incorporation and bylaws are as follows:

The added language:

Under Tax Exemption Compliance: "No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political provisional of these articles."

Under Financing: "The corporation is financed by revenues from membership dues, which dues are set by the Board of Directors as well as individual donations and grants."

Other changes: All references to a 501(c)(4) corporation were removed and replaced with 501(c)(3).

**Dennis Szymanski made a motion to approve up to \$2,000 to cover the costs of the government filing fees (\$1,000) and attorney fees (\$1,000) for the conversion of the HISCFA from a 501(c)(4) to a 501(c)(3); Patrick Feighan seconded; all in favor, motion carried.**

**Patrick Feighan made a motion to accept the new restated articles of incorporation and the newly amended accompanying by-laws; Donna Halacoglu seconded; all in favor, motion carried.**

Trunk-to-Trunk: The first event will be on June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016, and the second event will be on August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- *Liquor Licenses for 2016 Events (car show, Field Day, bonfire)*: Harold Stieber will be handling getting the liquor licenses for the events. Liquor licenses are approximately \$50 and there is plenty of time to acquire any licenses for upcoming dates they will be necessary. **Harold Stieber made a motion to approve \$200 to file for liquor licenses for upcoming events; Patrick Feighan seconded the motion; all in favor, motion carried.**
- *Water Station repairs*: This was covered earlier in the meeting.
- *Committee Assignments*: Barbara Crown is going to send an email reminding everyone which committees they were on last year, and if anything needs to be changed for this year it will be up to the members to let Barb know what needs to be changed.



## **NEW BUSINESS**

- *Browne's Field cost project:* This was covered earlier in the meeting. A contract for Browne's Field lawn maintenance is in the works.
- *Moment of silence John Hackett:* Patrick Feighan is going to plant a tree in his honor.
- *Social media investments:* Todd Brady suggested that the association invest some money towards social media support, to get a return on investment to use social media as a tool to get interest and participation in the association. Todd will be inviting someone in a future meeting to come and speak to the organization regarding this topic.

Additional comments from directors or guests:

- ✓ Susan Bryson wanted to point out that the upcoming Fashion Show at the Old Club, put on by the CATTAILS on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016, will end up benefiting the HISCFA for the bathroom project at Browne's Field.
- ✓ Patrick Feighan insisted that we discuss with our fellow community members that if they are using the services the HISCFA provides (Browne's Field, water station, etc.), that they should join the association since it is the only source of revenue.
- ✓ Clay Township positions available – several people have put themselves on the ballot for this fall.

Next meeting will be Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 9:00am at the Harsens Island Lions Club.

**Patrick Feighan made the motion to adjourn, and Dennis Szymanski seconded. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.**

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Most, Recording Secretary