

**Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Association**  
**2013 Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**Held at the H.I. Lion's Hall November 9, 2013**

**Call to Order:** President Patrick Feighan brought the Annual Meeting to order in the Lion's Hall promptly at 10:00 am. Following the Pledge of Allegiance Pat called for a roll call of directors present.

**Directors Present:** Todd Brady, Susan Bryson, Barb Crown, Patrick Feighan, Donna Halacoglu, Carol Johanson, Art Koster, Jim Laethem, David Martin, Mary Ann McLane, Denne Osgood, Cindy Pilato, Dennis Szymanski. **A quorum was established.**

**Directors Absent/Excused:** Jerry Freeman, Otto Jensen, Nancy LaMastus, Kathy Schweikart, Leonard Verlinden, Don Verslype, Lois Whipple.

**Members or Guests:** Recording Secretary Kathy Brady, HISCFA Legal Counsel Keith Wright. Old Club Representative Art Koster

**Review of Annual HISCFA Membership Meeting Posting and Election Ballot Mailing:**

- Pat showed a copy of the 2013 HISCFA Annual Meeting notice and a copy the Board of Directors ballot nominees. Pat said 780 copies were mailed to the membership at their recorded addresses in early October, as well as being posted at various public places throughout the Island. Pat requested a motion they be filed for the record in accordance with our by-laws. **Dave Martin made the motion the notice and the ballot be filed as record copies. Dennis Szymanski seconded. Comments / Concerns: None. Motion carried.**

**Review of October 2013 Meeting Minutes:**

-Patrick Feighan asked if everyone had reviewed the October meeting minutes and if there were any questions, concerns, or comments. Hearing none, **Dave Martin made a motion to approve and file the October 2013 board meeting minutes as published. Dennis Szymanski seconded. Motion carried.**

**President's Report:**

- Patrick Feighan reported we are continuing to grow and that our membership was up significantly from a low 5 years ago and that we are on sound financial footing. Pat stated that as the benevolent homeowners association we are chartered to be, everything we take in, we give back to the community. HISCFA continues to provide substantial financial support to the H.I. Lions, the Readers Cove, and a host of other community outreach programs and activities. Pat also stated that HISCFA was working with the Lions Club to assure the Lion's hall would remain available as the Islands community center. In a time of diminishing resources this was a time to be working together toward this common goal, an Island Community Center, not apart. Pat announced that the new HISCFA website was up and running, hosting director information, announcements, as well as board of directors meeting agendas and meeting minutes. He also said a Facebook page had been created and was looking forward to a much greater forum for community events and activities through this medium. Pat also thanked all the directors, and

members for their hard work and dedication this past year and he was grateful for the opportunity to serve as HISCFA president. Pat introduced association attorney Keith Wright, a fourth generation Islander, who has been working with Pat and the committee to update our by-laws so they would more in keeping with today's needs and requirements.

**Treasurer's Report:** (In Lois Whipple's absence)

-Patrick Feighan reported out on the October financial statement and concluded as of November 1<sup>st</sup> 2013 we had \$40,094.61 in the bank. After a review a discussion was held by the board members. Concerns were raised about the increase of costs over the past year and the need to contract some of our work out in the future due to the decreasing availability of volunteers and the increasing need to have bonded and insured contractors due to safety and liability issues. A consensus was reached that all future expenditures need to be closely monitored. Following the review **Dave Martin motioned to file the October treasurer's report, Mary Ann McLane seconded. Motion carried.**

**Secretary's Report:**

-Donna Halacoglu read a letter from the Readers Cove thanking HISCFA for the \$2,000.00 donation. Barb Crown and Patrick Feighan pointed out as a reminder that with the paying of their annual dues, which go into the general fund, members can make an extra donation. These extra donations can be specified to go toward specific need, like the Readers Cove, the H.I.Lions Hall, the Water Station, the Park 'n Ride, and other worthy causes so stipulated..

**Browne's Field Committee:**

-Browne's Field: Jim Laethem gave a report of the grounds, and gazebo. Pat Feighan talked about pond usage and a possible ice rink at the basketball court.

- The Water Station: Pat Feighan reported the main Water Station on North Channel Dr. and the South Channel Auxiliary water station continued to incur operating costs in excess of \$5,000.00. Pat stated that some of this is recouped by the bulk users and donations but it remains a major expense to the association. The old coin operated bulk dispensing system does not work effectively at the North Channel station and there is no fee at the auxiliary. Pat said the committee is looking at a credit card type dispensing system but it would be expensive to bring on line. Pat said that Dennis Szymanski is heading up a committee to review ways to become more efficient and to contact Dennis if you have ideas or concerns or would like to be involved with the committee.

- Park and Ride: Pat Feighan reminded everyone that the, costs, upkeep and maintenance are handled completely by HISCFA. A lot of hard work went into clearing the overgrowth and debris this year. He said more volunteers would be greatly appreciated. A discussion was subsequently held and comments from the floor indicated a need to be more revenue neutral. Suggestions ranged from restricting the use to members only to raising membership dues to help cover expenses. Pat and Jim said these suggestions would be considered and that anyone who wanted to help work on these issues join the committee.

**Government Affairs Committee:**

-Ferry Rates: Pat Feighan reported out that he recently received communications from Blue Water Transportation Authority and from Champions Auto Ferry management. Both said negotiations are continuing with MDOT and meetings are scheduled this week. Pat said he would provide updates as they become available.

Krispen Drain Dredge Project: Pat Feighan reported the DNR is currently is undergoing soil sampling. Clay Township Supervisor Artie Bryson reported that a full presentation will be held at the township meeting in December or January. He will advise as soon as the time and date are established.

Pat and Artie said that HISCFA's Browne's Field and the H.I. Lions Club Field are on the list of approved dredge dirt deposit locations.

-Emergency Alert Notification System: Pat Feighan reported out that after finding out the old emergence alert system was shut down last year a lot of progress has been made this year getting an effective, efficient emergency alert system up and running. As Township Supervisor Artie Bryson was key in making all this happen Pat turned the floor over to Artie. Artie detailed his efforts to getting our county and state government agencies to take immediate action. He explained he has been working with SEMCOG and other groups meeting each month to share information on spills and alerts. Based on these actions Artie reported that a new warning system, in real-time, and going out to all local dispatchers and water treatment plants will be in place in December. Safety was a main concern, especially for our residents located in the Harsens Island St. Clair Flats delta area. This new system will show buoyancy, size and direction of any spills and take into effect weather conditions.

#### **Community Affairs Committee:**

-Donna Halacoglu discussed the many ways in which HISCFA helps our community for both members and non-members. She stated that the association donated \$2,000.00 to the H.I. Lions again this year as well as contributing \$2,000.00 to the Readers Cove. She said the association has been very active in community causes and cited as one example the association teaming up with the Lions to provide a ramp / walkway for one of our Island families in need. It's what we do, she said. She also reminded everybody we are always looking for volunteers on this important committee.

#### **Executive Committee:**

-Proposed By-Law changes: Pat Feighan turned the floor over to association attorney Keith Wright to review and discuss the additions and updates proposed for HISCFA's by-laws. Keith took the directors and members through each section and explained the specific reasons they were needed and what effect they would have on our organization and its membership. Keith started out by explaining that our current by-laws were basically written in 1945 and that it was very important to update them to reflect today's state and federal statutes. Also these changes would insure we were in compliance with these statutes, safeguarding HISCFA's 501(c)4 status as well as our exposure to liability and other organizational concerns. The other primary reason for the by-law changes was to allow directors and members to vote and participate in official meetings using electronic media making for a more proactive and informed board and membership. After the review by Keith a discussion was held. After comments and concerns were heard Pat Feighan requested a motion on the proposed by-law changes. Dennis Szymanski **made a motion to pass the new By-Laws as presented**. Dave Martin seconded. A roll call vote was held. **Motion carried.** (Unanimous) The new By-Laws will go up on the website.

#### **Field Day Committee:**

-Committee Chairman Cindy Pilato reported out that while this year's event was successful it was readily apparent that more volunteers are needed if we are to successfully continue hosting

this event. Way too much work was put on too few shoulders. And, those shoulders are getting older. Bottom line is without additional volunteers we will either need to curtail the planned activities or hire people to help do it. She said she will start the planning for next year's event and would welcome anyone who would like to contribute.

**Delta News Committee:**

-Barb Crown thanked Arthur Woodford for his help and reminded everyone that if they have personal information they would like entered into next year's book to please contact Mary Ann McLane as stories are welcome.

**Membership Committee / Election of Directors:**

-Executive Secretary Donna Halacoglu certified that the election ballots had been mailed out to the membership, returned, and tabulated in keeping with the by-laws of the organization. She then read the election results for HISCFA Directors:

Elected for a three year term, beginning Jan. 1, 2014 through Dec. 31, 2016

- Susan Bryson (re-elected returning)
- Carol Johanson (re-elected returning)
- Paul Wargo (elected / new)
- Mike Hilla (elected / new)
- Kathleen O'Connor (elected / new)
- Rosemary Weiczorek (elected / new)

**Dennis Szymanski made a motion to approve the new HISCFA directors. Mary Ann McLane seconded. Comments / Concerns: None Voted: Unanimous Motion Passed**  
**Dennis Szymanski made a motion to destroy the ballots. Mary Ann McLane seconded. Comments / Concerns: None. Voted: Unanimous. Motion Passed.**

**Executive Committee:**

-Pat Feighan announced that it was his intention to step down from his position as president of the association for personal reasons at the end of his current term. He said he had conferred with the other members of the board and that Barb Crown had agreed to accept the position as president if so elected. Jim Laethem had agreed to stay on as Vice President, Lois Whipple had agreed to stay on as Treasurer for one more year, and Donna Halacoglu had agreed to stay on as Executive Secretary. Kathy Brady has agreed to stay on as Recording Secretary. Pat thanked the board and the membership for the privilege of serving as their president these past years and asked the board to consider his recommendations for the new HISCFA Executive Board.

**Dave Martin made a motion to accept Pat Feighan's recommendations for the HISCFA Executive Board. Denne Osgood seconded the motion. Comments / Concerns: none. Voted: Unanimous. Motion Passed.**

**Executive Officers for 2014:**

Patrick Feighan Chairman of the Board

Barb Crown President

Jim Laethem Vice President

Lois Whipple Treasurer

Donna Halacoglu Executive Secretary

**Comments from Directors:** Barb Crown and Donna Halacoglu announced that instead of the past practice of having a formal dinner and its related expense the annual HISCFA Director Christmas dinner will be an informal affair and be held 6:00pm, December 14th at the San Souci Landing. Please bring a dish to pass. The money saved will go to a worthy cause.

**Comments from the Floor:** Appreciation was voiced for the updated By-Laws and for the “very active Board of Directors who do a lot to help our community”.

**Dave Martin motioned to adjourn at 11:25am. Todd Brady seconded. Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathy Brady  
Recording Secretary  
November 23, 2013