

Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Association
Minutes
September 14, 2013

Directors Present: Todd Brady, Susan Bryson, Patrick Feighan, Donna Halacoglu, Carol Johanson, Jim Laethem, Mary Ann McLane, Dennis Szymanski, Lois Whipple.

Directors Absent/Excused: Barb Crown, Jerry Freeman, Otto Jensen, Art Koster, Nancy LaMastus, David Martin, Denne Osgood, Cindy Pilato, Jeannie Rhodes, Kathy Schweikart, Leonard Verlinden, Don Verslype.

A Quorum was not established. Pat Feighan recommended dispute being unable to conduct official business we continue on with the published agenda and table any motion or proposed action until the October meeting or until we do have a quorum of directors.

Members or Guests: Kathy Brady, Jacob & Becky Bryson, Artie Bryson, Joanne Shirkey.

Patrick Feighan brought the meeting to order in the Lions Den at 9:05 am. Kathy Brady read the August 2013 minutes. Pat Feighan motioned to file the August minutes, to approve at the October meeting Donna Halacoglu seconded. **Motion carried.**

Treasurer Report: Lois Whipple reported check book balance at \$11,692.48 with overall funds at \$35,857.38. Pat Feighan motioned to file the August treasure report, to approve at the October meeting Donna Halacoglu seconded. **Motion carried.** Concern was discussed of upcoming expenses. Lois said \$24.00 was left in the sawdust from field day games. It was deposited into the special checking act designated for Brown's Field bathrooms.

Correspondence and Membership: Donna Halacoglu read a thank-you from the Walker family for helping with the ramp. Donna also read a letter from member Ron Carron requesting a later start for the HISCFA meetings. Pat emailed him an update from the meetings he could not attend. Donna replied to Ron also.

Government Affairs: No change with BWAT.

~Pat sent an email to all members about an open seat on the St. Clair River Binational Public Advisory Council Committee asking people to consider joining.

Browne's Field: Jim Laethem thanked Dennis Szymanski for helping to grade the baseball diamond. The gazebo needs repair. Flowers did not do very well this summer. Lois and Donna both offered to bring some annuals to use at the park. Two (2) trees were donated for free. We need an auger to move them.

~ The electronic sign: Todd Brady said it is back on after the lightning surge and that the insurance company will consider covering the replacement cost as "an incident". Todd suggested putting surge protection on both the modum and the AT&T line going to the barn. Conversation was held about grounding it with the lightning rod. Barb has handled the advertising sign. No word from John Horvath.

Community Affairs: Pat Feighan requested the permit to spray the phragmite at the water station. Dennis Szymanski spoke with Chuck Miller and said the spray is all gone for the year.

~ Todd Brady has updated the website from raw code to word press. He has moved it from the old hosting provider and requested more content be given to keep it current. Pat agreed, the content there now is from 2012. Pat mentioned the "officers" tab does not move forward. Suggestions made were to list the last twelve (12) agenda's and minutes, a calendar, contact

information for directors (creating a generic <first name + last initial @HISCFA.org> email that would piggy-back to their private/personal addresses). Todd suggested using meta-tags to keep us to the top of the search engines. Jim Laethem asked if the website could create revenue for HISCFA. Kathy Brady suggested selling banner ads and/or upselling those already on the advertising board. Donna Halacoglu collected over 400 email addresses from members. Becky Bryson suggested Constant Contact or similar to inform members of updated website and island information. Todd volunteered to create a drip campaign. Pat asked Todd to chair a committee to create this project. Becky and Donna both offered to work with Todd.

~ Mary Ann McLane mentioned HISCFA's donation to the library. Pat added it to the October agenda.

~ Soil samples are being taken for study on the Krispen Drain project.

Field Day: Lois Whipple said final numbers are still being calculated. Cindy Pilato will report the final tally at the next meeting.

Executive Committee: Donna Halacoglu reminded everyone that the 2012 Annual Ballots were mailed Oct. 5th. Donna Halacoglu reported that we only have four (4) candidates for the upcoming six (6) open director positions. Pat Feighan suggested that in the absence of the majority of the directors, the planned discussion about the HISCFA Annual Meeting and its content as well as new director nominations be tabled until the October meeting. Discussion was held about the necessity to cut back on HISCFA spending. An example: the South Channel water station had a \$3,998.85 net loss last year, HISCFA spends \$6,000. and collected much less. This happens every year. Pat suggested sending a post-card to all residents requesting they join the organization before revising the budget. Biggest problem: lack of volunteers and lack of money.

~ Bi-Laws: Pat Feighan said updates are being discussed.

~ A special water assessment was brought up again for those people living in the flats (past Schneider's Marine) who do not have city water. Dennis Szymanski suggested tallying the costs of the water station, average out the past five (5) years to decide the assessment amount. Artie Bryson reminded everyone of the 51% needed to pass. The township does not want it, HISCFA loses funds on it. It could be possible to lose the water station. Artie Bryson will search more into this matter.

Comments from the Floor: Artie Bryson announced Wednesday's chemical spill from Sarnia had not been notified to the local water plant until 18 hours later. He said the DEQ has a 1 ½ hour window from finding out until passing along the information. This is unacceptable and he is addressing this issue also.

~ Artie Bryson notified members that M-29 is expanding to three (3) lanes from County Line Road to Palms Road in 2015. Artie reminded everyone about coffee with the supervisor this Sunday @ San Souci. He also announced that PBS television is coming Tuesday to film Harsens Island for an episode of "Under The Radar".

Pat Feighan motioned to adjourn at 11:10am. Todd Brady seconded. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Brady
Recording Secretary
September 24, 2013