



Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association

Minutes March 9, 2019

Directors Present: Craig Baloga, Todd Brady, George Covalle, Neva Covalle, Barbara Crown, Jim Laethem, Melanie Most, Harold Stieber, Dennis Szymanski, Jerry Thiel;

Excused: Patrick Feighan, Jerry Freeman, Donna Halacoglu, Mike Hilla, David Martin, Kathy O'Connor, Leonard Verlinden, Lois Whipple, Rosemary Wiczorek;

Guests and Members Present: Christine Baloga, Roger Favrow, Sandy Favrow, Linda Schoonover.

George Covalle brought the meeting to order at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall at 9:30 am with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The February 2019 meeting minutes were presented. **Jerry Thiel made the motion to approve the February 2019 meeting minutes, Jim Laethem seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, minutes to be placed on file.**

Executive Committee Reports

Treasurer Report: Harold Stieber presented the January and February Treasurer's Reports. Harold reported that the balance in the checkbook for February 28, 2019 was \$29,948.60, with total cash on hand being \$53,169.26. Harold reported that he made an adjustment in order to segregate the funds specifically for the permanent restroom facility apart from the general Browne's Field funds. Additionally, the donation from the CATTAILS fashion show in 2016 and the 2016-2018 Car Show proceeds were also allocated towards the restrooms. The total amount designated to the permanent restrooms fund is currently at \$16,756.35. Full copies of the monthly Treasurer's Report are available by contacting Harold at HaroldS@hiscfa.org.

Barbara Crown made the motion to approve the January and February treasurer's reports, Dennis Szymanski seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, reports to be placed on file.

Secretary Report: Neva Covalle reported that the Annual Membership letter was sent out, and 261 responses have been received as of yesterday. Additional funds/donations have been received with the membership dues: general fund \$1,455, Readers Cove \$315, Lions \$130, Water Stations \$170, Browne's Field \$420, Restrooms \$180, Historical Society \$50, Pickleball \$50. These additional funds/donations are in addition to the \$50 dues for membership. There were 35 new names added to our mailing roster from Nextdoor, four of which came back undeliverable. The rest have not responded yet. The Association hopes to reach out to these new names/faces will elect to join the Association. There have also been 23 address changes to be updated by the Executive Secretary.

Communications: No communications have been received this month.

Government Affairs: Harold Stieber discussed the recent FEMA meeting he attended at the Clay Township Meeting Hall on the mainland. This is covered under Old Business on the next page.

Browne's Field: There are ongoing discussions about the restrooms, and the committee is working with Bob Williams who is an architect on the subject. With respect to the walking path, Dennis Szymanski has coordinated



efforts for an approximately 2600 lineal feet, 10 ft wide walking path, for approximately \$15,000. The total amount of money in the general Browne's Field Fund is just under \$10,000. The path will generally be located along the perimeter of the Browne's Field property. George Covalle suggested polling the residents to see if they would be interested in contributing additional funds to improve the field. For example, the top on the path would be a firm surface, but not asphalt or concrete. Perhaps if residents hear this, they would be more willing to contribute additional funds for that specific improvement.

OLD BUSINESS

- *Survey Committee Update:* Christine Baloga reported that the survey was successfully deployed to 502 email addresses, and responses are already coming in. Melanie Most reported that she updated Nextdoor, Facebook, and the Association website with a reminder for members to check their emails for the chance to win a free book of ferry tickets after successfully completing the survey. A reminder email will be sent seven days from the date of survey deployment in the event that someone hasn't taken the survey. Melanie has assisted several people with questions about the survey and with troubleshooting. Christine said she has created a very rough draft of a pre- and post-event survey to send out around the time of an event like the Car Show. Barbara Crown and Melanie said they would assist.
- *FEMA Floodplain meeting:* Harold Stieber attended the FEMA meeting in February at the Clay Township meeting hall on the mainland. There were two meetings that took place: one at 1pm with officials, and one at 4pm for the public. Maps and charts were hung in the hall which showed geographic and topographic changes dictating which zone your property lies within. At the 1pm meeting there were engineers present to go through the calculations as to how FEMA arrived at different levels for each property, which depended on the wave height adjacent to that waterfront property. Typically all of Harsen's Island is in the flood zone AE (1.5'-3.5' wave height), but the proposed information showed that the proposals won't take effect for two years to allow for an appeals process. The current flood insurance status of every household, insured or not, will be grandfathered unless there is some new construction/remodeling at which point the property becomes subject to the new rules. Of course, the property owners' mortgage companies dictate the rules as well.

NEW BUSINESS

- *Island Cleanup:* Clay Township has scheduled the annual Island Cleanup Event for Saturday and Sunday June 1-2, 2019, hosted by the HISCA at Browne's Field.
- *Adopt-a-Highway:* Dennis Szymanski mentioned there might be a conflict with the date of the Adopt-a-Highway event proposed dates. The date was tentatively scheduled for either April 13th or April 27th, but the final date has been determined to be May 4, 2019. Please consider volunteering for this worthwhile effort to keep our Island clean.
- *Car Show Update:* Jerry Thiel reported that this year there will not be pre-registration. The first year there was only a couple people pre-register, the second year there was several, and the third year there were several people who sneaked into the car show by arguing with the registration assistants at the event that they had already paid (which they hadn't). This year will be a \$15 fee and participants will be responsible for their own ferry fee. Also, Jerry is working in conjunction with the chairman of the Mt. Clemens car show, and they're expecting between two and three thousand cars the first weekend in June. The chairman of this event wants to improve the participation at the Harsen's Island Car Show, so he intends to promote our show at the Mt. Clemens show, along with Jerry, to grow the show on the Island. The food for the show



will need to be discussed, since it seems worthwhile to provide food on our own so the profit goes to us, as opposed to getting food trucks which will net us little to no profit. Jerry reported that the DJ is booked for this event, and has sent out over 60 emails to prior sponsors (and some new ones) to get some support for this event. As of now there is over \$1,000-worth of prizes available. The Detroit sports teams (Tigers, Pistons, Lions, Red Wings) are being contacted for either tickets or memorabilia to be auctioned off as well. Last year there was some damage done to a classic car from a pet that was brought to the show, so this year there will be a very strict NO PETS policy. Volunteers for this event are needed!

- *July Meeting Reschedule:* Due to a conflict with the Car Show in July, the Board of Directors Meeting is being tentatively rescheduled for Wednesday July 10, 2019 at 5:00 pm.
- *Trunk-to-Trunk:* There will be another Trunk-to-Trunk sale this year, scheduled for June 15, 2019. Cost is \$10 per vehicle and goes towards the Browne's Field Improvement Fund. Sale hours are from 9:00am to 12:00pm. You may arrive as early as 8:00am to begin setting up. Bring your old and new items to sell or trade with others, and have fun with your Island friends and neighbors!
- *Community Foundation Grant Submission:* Barbara Crown stated that she is going to submit for this grant again this year. Last year the Association requested \$4,000 for a \$12,000 project, and the Association received \$1,000 from the Foundation. The Association hopes to use this money (if it is granted) to assist with the pea gravel around the swing area.

Additional comments from directors or guests:

- ✓ The Amazon Smile Foundation donations to the HISCFA for the 4th quarter of 2018 totaled \$5.99, and represent contributions generated by purchases from our members only since late December when the Association first enrolled in the program. These funds are provided to the Association every quarter. Please sign up for this free service if you do any shopping on Amazon.
- ✓ Barbara Crown mentioned that raffle prizes for Field Day need to be discussed. It seems that cash prizes are preferred and it also makes it easy on the Association. First prize is \$750, second prize is \$500, and third prize is \$250 or possibly a custom cornhole game.
- ✓ Barbara also mentioned that The Delta News articles are coming in, but Art Woodford and Barbara are struggling to come up with a theme for this year's publication. Neva Covalle suggested "people of the past" from the Island, and their impact on the Island throughout the years.
- ✓ Neva Covalle proposed that the Association purchase a small chest freezer for the kitchen to be used for the Car Show, Field Day, and any other event that could be supported by its use. Neva stated she would investigate costs and an appropriate size for that spot.
- ✓ Linda Schoonover mentioned that vendors are already coming forward for Field Day.

Next meeting will be Saturday, April 13, 2019 at **9:30 am** at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall.



Neva Covalle made the motion to adjourn; Craig Baloga seconded. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Most, Recording Secretary

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