



Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association

Minutes April 13, 2019

Directors Present: Craig Baloga, Todd Brady, George Covalle, Neva Covalle, Barbara Crown, Jim Laethem, David Martin, Melanie Most, Harold Stieber, Dennis Szymanski, Jerry Thiel, Leonard Verlinden, Rosemary Wieczorek, Lois Whipple;

Excused: Patrick Feighan, Jerry Freeman, Donna Halacoglu, Mike Hilla, Kathy O'Connor;

Guests and Members Present: Christine Baloga, Joe Bosy, Alfred Cardinali, Eric Dougherty, Mary McKiernan-Lorence, Cindy Pilato, Joanne Shirkey, Dan Steel.

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

The March 2019 meeting minutes were presented. **David Martin made the motion to approve the March 2019 meeting minutes, Harold Stieber 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 March 31, 2019 was \$43,488.75, with total cash on hand being \$66,709.41. Full copies of the monthly Treasurer's Report are available by contacting Harold at HaroldS@hiscfa.org.

David Martin made the motion to approve the March treasurer's reports, Jerry Thiel seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, reports to be placed on file.

Secretary Report: Neva Covalle reported that there have been 442 paid memberships received out of 880 that were sent out. Reminder postcards are usually sent out a week or two after the due date for any outstanding memberships. This year people have been very generous with their additional contributions to various funds (e.g. Browne's Field permanent restrooms, general fund, etc.). In particular, the Browne's Field general fund has received \$3,106 that people have earmarked specific for that purpose.

Communications: Neva Covalle stated that a thank-you letter was received from Julie Kukawka regarding her receipt of last year's Orlo McLane Scholarship. The letter was read to all in attendance.

Government Affairs: George Covalle mentioned that Patrick Feighan has been in communication with the Lake Carriers' Association (LCA) regarding Islanders' concerns for freighter wakes and washes again this year. With the water levels being even higher again this year, the President of the LCA said he would get the word out.

Browne's Field: The Browne's Field committee was able to secure Korthals' Lawn Care again this year for the same price as last year. David Martin stated that he will organize bringing the portable toilet from the mainland at the ferry back over to Browne's Field in the coming weeks. The ferry will begin running two shifts next week, so wait times should be reduced from what they were in the winter months.



OLD BUSINESS

- *Survey Committee Update:* Christine Baloga provided a summary of the survey to the Board of Directors. The survey that was deployed went out to 511 members on March 8, 2019. It was a cost-free effort except for the incentive of one book of ferry tickets (value \$140). It was in the field for approximately three weeks and closed on March 31, 2019. There were 212 completed surveys which is a 41.5% response rate. Of those 212 that completed the survey, a total of 178 members put their information in for the incentive. There was some feedback for the Association provided throughout the survey. Melanie Most promoted the survey on the social media sites and fielded several questions from survey participants when they ran into any issues with the survey or if they didn't receive the survey for some reason. Melanie continued to troubleshoot in those instances and nearly all problems were resolved immediately. An automatic reminder was sent a week later if a survey was not completed by the recipient. An additional email was sent thanking the person for filling it out upon successful completion. Of the 511 emails that went out, four members opted out of receiving any future surveys from the HISCFA. These four people will automatically be excluded from any future survey deployments despite having their email address retained in the system. The random winner selected for the book of ferry tickets was **Dennis Martz**.
George Covalle stated that he believes the Board of Directors need to review and react to the survey in a calculated method. Perhaps a committee should be formed to boil down the results to create action items for things to work on and improve for the Association. Additionally, pre-event and post-event mini surveys will go out to poll our audience to see about interest in events, and promote awareness of these future events (Trunk-to-Trunk, Car Show, Field Day, etc.).
- *Community Foundation Grant:* Barbara Crown stated that she has filed for this grant already. The Association hopes to use this money (if it is granted) to assist with the pea gravel around the swing area. The organizations that are awarded this grant will be notified in the month of May.

NEW BUSINESS

- *Adopt-a-Highway:* This year's event will be on Saturday, May 4, 2019. Barbara Crown stated that she has reflective vests and garbage bags already. Please consider volunteering for this worthwhile effort to keep our Island clean. Meet at St. Mark Church on the Island at 10:00 am: please wear gloves and boots, and bring a rake if you have one. Refreshments provided after the event for all volunteers.
- *Car Show Update:* Over 70 emails have been sent to various companies for promotional items for this year's event on Saturday, July 13, 2019. Donations for prizes have been slowly trickling in. The Mt. Clemens car show is going to show approximately 2,500 vehicles in their show in early June, and the Harsen's Island show is going to be heavily promoted during this event. The Harsen's Island Car Show's Facebook page is being regularly updated; *volunteers are still needed for this event*. There will be NO pre-registration this year: everyone will pay as they enter the gate, and the price of entry has been reduced by \$5 so entrants must purchase their own ferry tickets. Reminder: there are NO DOGS permitted at this event. Neva requested a motion to buy a freezer for Browne's Field, with an estimated cost of around \$150. This item would be tax exempt due to the Association's 501(c)(3) status. **Lois Whipple made the motion to purchase a freezer for Browne's Field, Jerry Thiel seconded; all in favor, motion carried.** Additionally, a supporter of the Island car show asked if the Association could provide a sign that he could place on his property for free advertisement.



- *Field Day:* Cindy drafted a sponsorship letter to solicit potential vendors for donations for Field Day. Cindy also stated she's going to work with Donna Halacoglu to revive a welcoming committee on behalf of the Association. Cindy suggested an "Island Fun Facts" page to be included in the packet.
- *Restrooms committee meeting:* Susan Bryson reported out from this committee meeting, and the topic of the septic field was discussed (where it would be located, time of year to get started, estimated project duration for completion, etc.). Dennis Szymanski suggested to get with Island resident Bob Williams (architect) to come up with plans to put out for bid, since he generously volunteered to assist with this project.
- *Walking path:* This path will be approximately 2,600 feet long, along the outskirts of Browne's Field. Road millings are needed to construct the path, and those won't be available until after roadwork begins in May or June. The funding in the reserves for Browne's Field general improvements is \$9,658, and the funding for restrooms specifically is at \$16,756. All of these funds are set aside for capital projects and NOT for maintenance. Susan Bryson wishes to perform a fundraiser to obtain the shortfall of funds that will be required to complete this walking path project.

Additional comments from directors or guests:

- ✓ Island Cleanup: Clay Township has scheduled the annual Island Cleanup Event for Saturday and Sunday June 1-2, 2019, hosted by the HISCFA at Browne's Field.
- ✓ 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!
- ✓ July Meeting Reschedule: Due to a conflict with the Car Show in July, the Board of Directors Meeting is being rescheduled for Wednesday July 10, 2019 at 5:00 pm to be held at Browne's Field. **Neva Covalle made the motion to move the Board of Directors meeting, David Martin seconded; all in favor, motion carried.**
- ✓ Harold Stieber mentioned he will soon be placing the order for the semi-permanent pickleball net that is to be installed for all players to use. This purchase was approved last fall.
- ✓ Barbara Crown mentioned that raffle prizes for Field Day needs to be discussed. It seems that cash prizes are preferred and it also makes it easy on the Association. Last month's minutes misstated the prize amounts. It has been decided that they will be: First prize is \$750, second prize is \$300, and third prize is a custom cornhole game.
- ✓ Dennis Szymanski commented about the cordoning-off of the pavilion for alcohol consumption during events at Browne's Field. Dennis is going to coordinate with Harold Stieber so they can submit a drawing with the alcohol license to the state.

Next meeting will be Saturday, May 11, 2019 at **9:00 am** at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall.



Jerry Thiel made the motion to adjourn; Leonard Verlinden seconded. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 10:23 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Most, Recording Secretary

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