



## Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association

Minutes July 13, 2019

**Directors Present:** Craig Baloga, George Covalle, Neva Covalle, Barbara Crown, Patrick Feighan, Jerry Freeman, Donna Halacoglu, Mike Hilla, David Martin, Melanie Most, Harold Stieber, Dennis Szymanski, Jerry Thiel, Leonard Verlinden, Lois Whipple, Rosemary Wieczorek;

**Excused:** Todd Brady, Susan Bryson, Jim Laethem, Kathy O'Connor, Rosemary Wieczorek;

**Guests and Members Present:** Michael Balan, Christine Baloga, John Cameron, Alfred Cardinali, Dave Carruthers, Felix Kamie, Linda Pavia, Cindy Pilato, Norman Rhodes, Linda Schoonover, Joanne Shirkey, Jim Stieber, Skip Tornow, Sue Tornow.

George Covalle brought the meeting to order at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall at 9:00 am with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

### Executive Committee Reports

**Treasurer Report:** Harold Stieber presented the June Treasurer's Reports. Harold reported that the balance in the checkbook for June 30, 2019 was \$61,693.74, with total cash on hand being \$84,960.91. Full copies of the monthly Treasurer's Report are available by contacting Harold at [HaroldS@hiscfa.org](mailto:HaroldS@hiscfa.org).

**Patrick Feighan made the motion to approve the June treasurer's reports, David Martin seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, reports to be placed on file.**

**Secretary Report:** Barbara Crown reported that there are 575 paid members and approximately 160 members from The Old Club. Membership is down approximately 100 people this year over last year.

**Communications:** A thank-you letter was received from Emily Young, one of this year's scholarship recipients.

**Government Affairs:** Patrick Feighan stated that the Township is assisting with the donations of sand to Browne's Field. With regards to the sandbags and water barriers, please remember that several parts of the country are currently under water and with the hurricane coming to the Louisiana area, shipments of the empty sand bags and water barriers may be delayed. John Cameron asked whether there is anything being done about private vessels creating high wakes in the river. Patrick Feighan stated that there are 15 people and five boats available to patrol the waters. They need to patrol from Port Huron all the way down to the end of and around the Island. There are simply not enough deputy marine sheriffs to patrol all of the waterways all of the time. It seems to be the larger vessels that do not understand the impact of their wake. Someone else suggested floating signs to be placed into the river, and Patrick Feighan responded that anything is possible with the right amount of resources in place. A temporary executive order for a No Wake situation surrounding the Island has been requested by the Township to the governor.



As communicated by Justin Westmiller, Emergency Services Director of Homeland Security, St. Clair County, “If you experience flood damage to your property or possessions, now or in the future, document the loss, preferably with pictures, and a description, and report it to: [damage@stclaircounty.org](mailto:damage@stclaircounty.org). This will assist in determining relief funding.

*This is in addition to and separate from anything you may provide your insurance company. It does two things:*

*1) documents your loss with the county government*

*2) serves as hard documentation for the establishment of emergency / disaster relief funding. Both current and for future planning.”*

**Browne’s Field:** Dennis Szymanski stated that the drainage at the field is working well, and the water is being successfully pumped out of the field over the last week. Dennis has built a ramp (i.e. speedbump) to be placed over the pump hose so that it doesn’t need to be stopped when someone needs to drive through the driveway. Maintenance has been ongoing with grass cutting and general field upkeep. Harold Stieber and his brother assembled and set up the pickleball net and it is currently being utilized quite a bit!

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- *Field Day:* Cindy Pilato expressed concern over the lack of Silent Auction items, since it was announced so late to our Island population. This year, “Art in the Park” will be available for the children to participate. Unfortunately, due to the high water and difficulty negotiating the ferry, the ponies and other animals will not be participating in this year’s event. Cindy also wanted to point out that Browne’s Field is high and dry, and although people’s properties might be under water, we welcome all the children (and parents and grandparents!) on the Island on Saturday August 3<sup>rd</sup> to attend this wonderful event. Christine Baloga will deploy a survey ahead of this event to raise awareness in the hopes of increased attendance. Community service workers will be available to help the day of the event and also the next day to help clean up.
- *The Delta News:* The publication is on the final draft, and should be ready to go to the printer this week.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- *Field Day Raffle Tickets:* The annual mailings for Field Day were prepped and ready to be mailed. The mailing consisted of a return envelope, a flyer for the event, a Silent Auction item card, and a bundle of raffle tickets. Unfortunately, due to USPS customer support ruling PS-307 (601.9.3) updated July 2014 it will not be possible to mail tickets to our members this year. The ruling states, “Raffles that incorporate ‘prize,’ ‘chance,’ and ‘consideration’ are considered lotteries under the statute and postal standards. ‘Tickets’ for such raffles are considered unlawful mail matter and remain nonmailable.” There was much discussion that took place regarding this topic. Please contact any Director for raffle tickets. In addition, several Directors will be talking to our neighbors near our homes, and also selling raffle tickets in public areas like downtown Sans Souci. With the unfortunate cancellation of this year’s Car Show, Field Day once again is our largest fundraiser for the year. The raffle prizes are \$750 cash for first prize, \$300 cash for second prize, and third prize is a beautiful hand-made custom cornhole game set.



Additional comments from directors or guests:

- ✓ Dennis Szymanski shared with the group that next Sunday July 21<sup>st</sup>, the Harsen's Island Militia (H.I.M.) softball team will be playing a team from "On the ROCKS," a new tiki bar and grill in Fair Haven. This restaurant will be selling food and drink, and proceeds are going towards the permanent restrooms at Browne's Field.
- ✓ On Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm, the Lions Club is sponsoring a Town Hall event, bringing in an insurance specialist for flood insurance claims to discuss options for homeowners facing flood damage.
- ✓ Jerry Freeman wishes to advocate on behalf of the Association such that the North Channel, Sni Bora, and Middle Channel waterways are temporarily made no wake zones. He wishes to put in rationale and forward to the governor, who should have the authority to make this proclamation. He would initiate a draft and hopes that the Government Affairs committee will support this wish and send it to the State on behalf of the Association.
- ✓ A meeting attendee mentioned that when you pay your water bill at the township office, the township will give you a free waterproof sign that says NO WAKE ZONE. This was mentioned on the back of the water bills that were mailed out by the Township.
- ✓ As a reminder, the Strawberry Festival is taking place today at St. Paul's Church. Please support Island organizations.

Next meeting will be Saturday, August 10, 2019 at **9:00 am** at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall.

**Neva Covalle made the motion to adjourn; Jerry Thiel seconded. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 10:03 am.**

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Most, Recording Secretary

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