



## **Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association**

### **Minutes February 10, 2024**

**Directors Present:** Lucy Burby, David Martin, Melanie Most, Linda Schoonover, Jim Stieber, Dennis Szymanski, Leonard Verlinden, Jennifer Weaver, Lois Whipple, Stacy Williams;

**Excused:** Craig Baloga, Fred Cardinali, Gordon Couture, Steve Lawrence;

**Unexcused:** Susan Bryson, Jerry Freeman, Kathy O'Connor;

**Guests and Members Present:** Mike Balan, Nancy Bonacquisti, Joe Bosy, Jacob Bryson, John Dickson, Carol Funke, Steve Gartland, Jody Joye, Mike Joye, John Koleszar, Julie Koleszar, Margaret Marchwinski, Larry Miller, George Rose, Harold Stieber, Mark Williams.

Lois Whipple brought the meeting to order at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall at 9:32 am with the Pledge of Allegiance. Lois expressed sympathy to the Bryson family on behalf of the HISCFA for the recent loss of David Bryson.

The January 2024 meeting minutes were presented. **Dennis Szymanski made the motion to approve the January 2024 meeting minutes, Jim Stieber seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, minutes to be placed on file.**

Harold Stieber is stepping down as Treasurer and Jennifer Weaver is stepping up to take on this role for the HISCFA. **Harold Stieber made a motion to appoint Jennifer Weaver and Lois Whipple to become authorized signers on the HISCFA checking account, and to remove Harold Stieber from being a signer on the account; Dennis Szymanski seconded. All in favor, motion carried.**

#### **Executive Committee Reports**

**Treasurer Report:** Harold Stieber presented the January 2024 Treasurer's Reports. Harold reported that the balance in the checkbook for January 31, 2024 was \$28,321.65 with total cash on hand being \$100,904.93. Full copies of the monthly Treasurer's Report are available by contacting Harold Stieber at [HaroldS@hiscfa.org](mailto:HaroldS@hiscfa.org).

**Dennis Szymanski made the motion to approve the January 2024 treasurer's reports, Jim Steiber seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, reports to be placed on file.**

**Secretary Report:** Margaret Marchwinski is still acting as the Interim Executive Secretary, although the HISCFA is still looking for a replacement for this role going forward since Margaret is no longer available to continue in this position. Margaret met with Carol Funke yesterday, who has graciously agreed to manage the responsibilities of the advertising sign board (Welcome Sign Board). Harold mentioned that he sent out four invoices for the remaining unpaid artwork. Margaret indicated she will follow up with Harold about those in the near future. Margaret also spoke with Steve Lawrence, current HISCFA Vice President, and they agreed that Margaret will produce the annual membership letter, and send out the membership renewal slips in the usual annual mailing of these items.

**Communications:** There were no communications received this month.



Browne's Field: Dennis Szymanski will cover many items pertaining to Browne's Field under the New Business section of the Minutes.

Government Affairs: Lois Whipple read an update about the water levels, posted on social media by Paul Wargo. Ultimately, the Army Corps of Engineers predicts the water to drop back at least five inches this month, and then the usual rise will occur going forward. Overall, the current prediction is that the water will be about 5-6 inches lower than last summer.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- *Walking Path Status*: Harold Stieber stopped by Project Control Engineering (PCE) yesterday to inquire about the status. It was determined that the drawings have been completed and are currently with the owner for review. Once the drawings are approved, then they can go out for request for quotations.
- *Dog Signs at Browne's Field*: The signs that are currently posted at Browne's Field were initially installed by St. Clair County, so it will not be possible to get additional duplicates of those signs. Melanie Most located an appropriate sign for purchase on Amazon and emailed the link to the Browne's Field committee for review a few weeks ago. Discussion ensued about this topic, and Dennis Szymanski agreed to purchase the signs that Melanie suggested.
- *Kitchen Quote Repairs Update*: There was a proposal on the table to perform many actions on the kitchen area of the Browne's Field pavilion including stripping out all the rotted plywood and repair / replace existing damaged material / studs including trim and siding. Dennis Szymanski agreed to replace the pedestrian door on his own since the door has already been purchased, but the rest of the work went out for quotation for a total of \$3,360. **Lucy Burby made the motion to proceed with the work that was quoted at that price; Stacy Williams seconded. All in favor; motion carried.**

### NEW BUSINESS

- *Browne's Field Updates Needed*: Dennis Szymanski indicated that there are many items that require updating at Browne's Field.
  - Near the perimeter of the pavilion at Browne's Field, there are some trip hazards where the water drops off the roof and the dripping, over time, has worn away the dirt/grass adjacent to the concrete base of the pavilion. There will need to be dirt and grass seed put down to build it back up to overcome these trip hazards, and this tends to happen every 2-3 years as it wears away over time. That activity will be about \$1,700.
  - To prevent the recurring replacement of dirt/grass so often (mentioned in the previous point), it is recommended to get some gutters in place which will cost approximately \$2,200-\$2,500. The fascia that is installed on the pavilion is pitched the same as the roof, so special brackets will be installed to keep the gutters placed at a 90-degree angle. This project will require about 110 feet of gutters and maybe 10 downspouts.
  - Remove debris, brush, and stumps along the 600-ft perimeter of the field near the fence/baseball area, which will be in the way of the proposed walking path if it is not addressed. It was agreed by the committee that this work should be completed prior to the installation of the path. This is estimated to cost approximately \$3,500-\$4,000 for this task.



- o When Music in the Park events take place, the community stage is brought over by St. Clair County and it is parked in front of the barn. That area is in need of a proposed perimeter paver, where the grass & dirt is stripped out, it is backfilled with stone and 2' x 2' grates, it is filled with dirt and topped with seed (ultimately grass). This will much better support the weight of that stage in the future. This is a common solution to areas where heavy vehicles must traverse without leaving ruts. The proposal is that there will be a 60' x 15' pad area placed down to support the stage, and this is estimated at \$4,200-\$5,000.
  - o The large Advertising Sign Board is in need of repairs as well. Sections will need to be replaced because some of the signs are buckling due to the metal (steel) supports being rotted out. The signs will need to be pulled down, the steel will need to be replaced with aluminum, and then the signs replaced into their respective locations. A sign company is likely not a feasible solution due to cost, but a metal fabricator will need to commit to this job. It will likely take an extended amount of time (months, perhaps) to maybe barter this work or pursue repairs as donation. A full scope of work will need to be established once a metal fabricator who is interested in this project is identified.
- *Proposed Food Truck:* In the November 2023 HISCFA Board meeting, an individual approached the HISCFA with a proposal to bring a “food truck” to Browne’s Field, to be placed near the large advertising sign board, near the circle drive in front of the sign. The Browne’s Field committee reviewed the proposal documents, and upon further review of the proposal and discussions with the individual it was determined that this was not actually a food truck at all. The individual’s wish was to install a semi-permanent structure. The Browne’s Field committee discussed the details of the proposal with the appropriate involved official government entities. The survey of Browne’s Field property at the proposed location shows there is nothing permitted to be placed in the “front yard” of the property (where the proposal indicates), and furthermore it would be encroaching on a county easement which would require permission from the county (which has not been obtained). Further yet, this individual would need to obtain a peddler’s permit which has not been achieved, and even if all of that could be granted for the proposal (which it hasn’t), the setbacks would still not be met. The only other potential location available at Browne’s Field would have to be at the parking area along the fence, which is not desirable to the Browne’s Field committee and also not desired by the HISCFA Board. Communications with the individual have taken place throughout the ongoing discussions, and also regarding the decision to not allow this proposal going forward.
- *DC Farms Greenhouse:* In previous years, DC Farms & Greenhouse out of Columbus, MI sold their plants/flowers for Mother’s Day at the former bank location (adjacent to Browne’s Field), but that is no longer an option for them based on discussions with the current owners. Last year, the HISCFA permitted them to sell at Browne’s Field, provided they fill out and sign a liability agreement but did not charge them due to the nature of the event being of community service, or of benefit to the community. They reached out again this year to see whether they could sell again at Browne’s Field on Saturday, May 11, 2024. It was agreed upon by HISCFA Directors to permit them to sell again this year, after signing a liability agreement, and that the HISCFA strongly urges them to consider a donation(s) of some kind to the community. Margaret will follow up with DC Farms & Greenhouse to once again provide the liability agreement and request for donation.



**Guest Speaker, Clay Township Fire Chief George Rose:** During the month of January, Chief Rose attended five meetings: the Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association (HISCFA), Harsens Island Transportation Authority (HITA), St. Clair County Fire Chief's Association, TRI-Hospital EMS, and U.S. Coast Guard Sector Detroit where general business was discussed.

The Clay Twp. Fire Department (CTFD) will be submitting a request for an Assisted Fire Grant (AFG) for the purpose of obtaining portable radios this year, as well as going in on a regional grant with the Marine City Fire Department.

Clay Township hosted a town hall meeting for U.S. Coast Guard Sector Detroit, where the hot topic was the possible closing of the St. Clair Shores Coast Guard Station due to manning issues. The captain of the port advised they are not closing it down completely; they will be running some light patrols out of there. If there is a search and rescue the resources would come from Detroit Coast Guard Station or the Port Huron Station. The captain further advised that the Port Huron Coast Guard Station will now cover south towards the area of the middle of Anchor Bay, and Detroit Station will cover from there down to Toledo. It looks like the CTFD will be working a lot more closely with the Coast Guard to address any concerns that arise that require response. The U.S. Coast Guard has a standard required 2-hour response time for any type of emergency response. The USCG will be in closer contact with the CTFD to ensure the most efficient response is performed.

The fire department went out and checked for missing road and street signs on Harsens Island and the Mainland. A list was made and given to Clerk Valentine per her request.

Airboat#1 is now at station#1 for the winter. All vehicles are in service; parts have been ordered for Tango#3 water pump.

Linda Schoonover asked Chief Rose whether he was going to post to the CTFD Facebook page an official notification of the presence of a Naloxone (Narcan) dispenser at the Harsen's Island Fire Station. Chief Rose indicated that the post has not officially been published and that it will require follow up. Additionally, three new instructors have been trained to be able to provide training for CPR classes. Dennis Szymanski requested that perhaps the next CPR class could take place around the first week of April, and Chief Rose agreed to look into setting it up.

Additional comments from directors or guests:

- ✓ Melanie Most asked whether a 2024 calendar of events has been produced yet, and to everyone's knowledge it does not yet exist. Melanie indicated that if any future committee meetings are taking place, to please note specific dates so that they can be compiled and put on the HISCFA website and can also be communicated for publication in The Flyer this summer.
- ✓ Linda Schoonover asked whether the Field Day Vendor Form has been finalized or is current and doesn't require any further content modifications. Margaret Marchwinski will send Stacy Williams the finalized form, and Stacy will format it as a fillable PDF file so that it can be distributed by Linda and added to the HISCFA website to be made available to the public.
- ✓ Harold Stieber mentioned needing to get Jennifer Weaver a HISCFA.org email address, and **Harold Stieber made a motion for getting the Treasurer laptop upgraded and/or replaced if necessary; Dennis Szymanski seconded. All in favor, motion carried.**



Next meeting will be Saturday, March 9, 2024 at **9:30 am** at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall.

**Leonard Verlinden made the motion to adjourn; Stacy Williams seconded. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 10:19 am.**

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Most, Recording Secretary

[MelanieM@hiscfa.org](mailto:MelanieM@hiscfa.org)



## APPENDIX

Fire Department Incident Reports for Harsen's Island (January 2024)



# Clay Township Fire & EMS

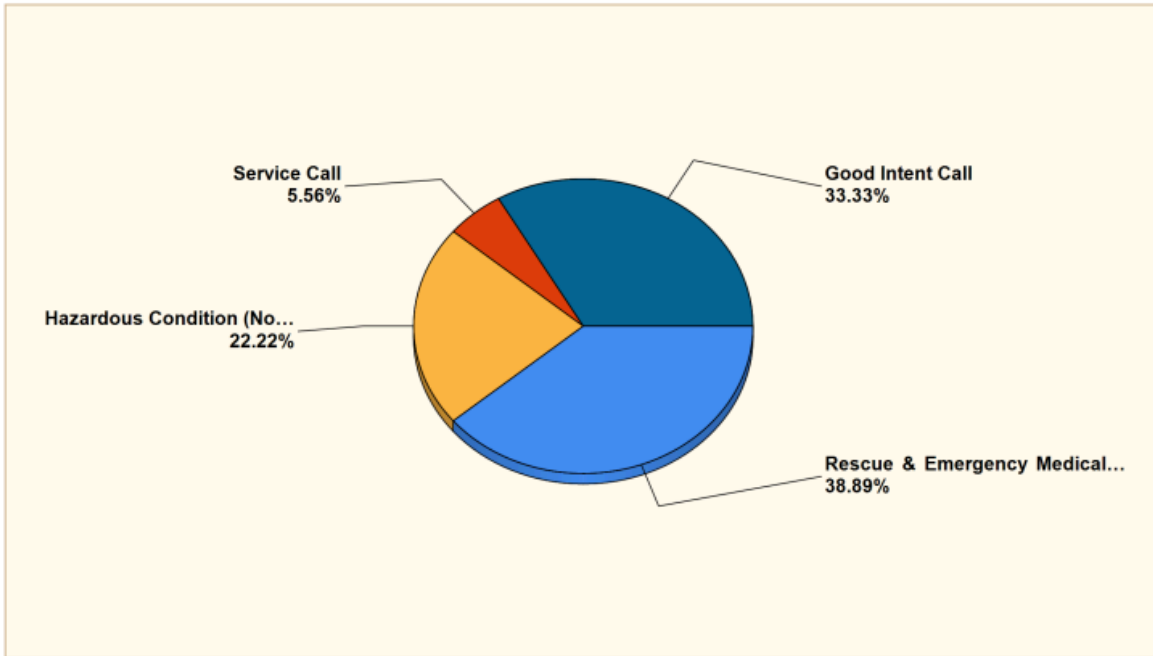
Clay Township, MI

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## Breakdown by Major Incident Types for Date Range

Zone(s): 3 - HARSENS ISLAND | Start Date: 01/01/2024 | End Date: 01/31/2024



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	7	38.89%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	4	22.22%
Service Call	1	5.56%
Good Intent Call	6	33.33%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>100%</b>

Detailed Breakdown by Incident Type		
INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	3	16.67%
320 - Emergency medical service, other	1	5.56%
321 - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	3	16.67%
440 - Electrical wiring/equipment problem, other	1	5.56%
444 - Power line down	3	16.67%
571 - Cover assignment, standby, moveup	1	5.56%
631 - Authorized controlled burning	6	33.33%
<b>TOTAL INCIDENTS:</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>100%</b>