

HMC Management Board Meeting Minutes (July 12, 2008)

Call to Order: Fred Fath called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Roll Call: Fred Fath, President/Treasurer, Kathryn Deuster, Vice President, Janet Podell, Secretary; Judy Grienke, Assistant Treasurer, John Dolan, Member at Large, Doug Allen, Island Manager

Previous Board Meeting Minutes: **Kathy Deuster made a motion to accept the June '08 meeting minutes. Motion carried.**

Correspondence: Six pieces of correspondence were received during the month. Items were discussed as the issues arose during the meeting.

Finance:

- Fred reported on the status of budget. Ferry revenues are presently 10% low but July and August are typically heavy ferry usage months and it is hoped that these revenues will offset the deficit. Expenses are closely in line with the plan although they are currently over budget. This will also be offset by increased assessment income that we are experiencing. Burn rate estimates are very close to plan. Reserve accounts are being funded according to plan.
- **Fred Fath made a motion to pay the bills. Motion carried.**

See Island Manager's written report for additional details of the following areas.

Administration:

- Pierce County provided new property value assessments for HMC owned property. Some of the properties realized significant increases (up approx. 300%). Doug Allen requested input from the Board on a decision to contest these assessments with the County. Discussion from the membership followed. The Board decided to contest three of the assessments to the Board of Equalization arguing the usefulness of the properties in question relative to their assessed value.
- Security Masters was hired for the 4th of July weekend and proved to be relatively successful. The security service is currently scheduled to be used at the mainland ferry dock during the ferry dry dock in September. There was discussion of hiring the service for Labor Day activities as well. **Janet Podell made a motion to hire Security Masters for one shift on Saturday over the upcoming Labor Day holiday. Motion carried.**
- Members in the audience discussed the use of fireworks before, during, and after the holiday. There were differing opinions about the volume and disruptive effects of the fireworks. We discussed the possibility of future restrictions such as time limits for fireworks activity, and to explore how the regulations would be effectively enforced. HMC needs to assess the regulations that are in place today relative to safety and noise issues.
- The recent burn ban that was imposed by the Board for the holiday was discussed. It was reported that Fire District 16 is very much in favor of our keeping the burn ban in place because of the dryness of the island at this time. That coupled with low tide canceled ferry runs makes it more difficult to get Fire Dept. response in the event of a fire. **Kathy Deuster made a motion to continue the burn ban for all open fires (except at North Beach) until further notice. BBQ grills excepted. Motion carried.**

- A question was put before the board to grant ongoing ferry access to May Mobile Marine Tech, a company that regularly comes to the island to service members' vessels. This access would be authorized on an indefinite basis for the benefit of the island boat owners. The company would still be required to pay the non-member ferry fee and the service would be restricted to the North Beach. The Board agreed to provide this blanket access.
- There is a possibility of creating additional parking spaces at the mainland lot if some re-grading was done. As an alternate solution, there was discussion on moving some of the logs to create additional spaces. A cost estimate will be solicited for the cost of cutting the weeds and moving the logs.
- There was discussion of discontinuing the publication and maintenance of the Island Yellow Pages. It was generally agreed that it has outlived its usefulness. **Kathy Deuster made a motion to discontinue the Yellow Pages. Motion carried.**
- The Board granted approval for Far West Golf Cart to come to the island for a golf cart clinic in late August or early Sept. **Kathy Deuster made a motion to grant this approval. Motion carried**

Legal:

- See Island Manager's report

Land Use:

- There was a request from a member to top 4-5 trees on HMC land near his property. This will be handled the same as similar requests of late. **Kathy Deuster made a motion to proceed with the plan. Motion carried.**

Transportation:

- The Ferry dry dock event is scheduled for two weeks beginning Sept. 14th.
- George Newcomb suggested as a fuel saving measure we should shut the ferry engines down whenever the boat is docked. He brought this up as a result of the budget projections for next year's fuel cost increase. George did extensive research about the cost of fuel burned when the engines are idling. He contacted Tacoma Diesel who substantiated this claim and went on to state that idling a diesel engine is very bad for the engine. Even the Coast Guard recommended that we do not idle the engines. He projected that our fuel costs could be cut in half. Captain John Farris weighed in on the issue and indicated that, in his estimation we could save the cost of approximately 5 gallons per day which is far less than 50%. He went on to state that in order to continue lubricating the engine parts the engines need to be running. Additionally, a running engine helps to keep the boat at the dock. Otherwise it is held in place only by the port and starboard lines. This is an important consideration when wind is a factor. The transportation committee will evaluate the suggestion.

Rules & Regulations:

- The Rules Committee has received two complaints this year, both of which are scheduled for a hearing immediately following this Board Meeting.
- As a reminder to members about the 15 MPH speed limit, a sign has been placed at the top of Ferry Street.
- There are several informal requests for rules changes that are currently under consideration.
- Reminders have been placed in the Beachcomber about several of the more serious rules violations.

- Judy Grienke was temporarily appointed to the Rules committee to create a quorum for one of the hearings occurring today. **Kathy Deuster made a motion to approve this appointment. Motion carried.**

Emergency Preparedness:

- A Pierce County neighborhood PC-Net meeting is scheduled for July 22nd.
- The generator is still on the ferry and needs to be removed before the dry dock event on Sept. 14.

Water:

- Washington Water is coming out to prepare for installation of our new meter on July 22nd.
- Mike Davis reminded the membership that it is important to know where their water shut off is located. And it should always be in good working order. Mike will write up a statement on this for the Beachcomber.
- The new water system plan is underway and progressing well.

Parks:

- Painting the pavilion at North Beach and cleaning the fire pit will require a work party. It was pointed out that the fire pit is in serious need of cleaning and may not be safe to use until it is cleaned.
- Judy Greinke offered her dumpster for disposal of the fire pit contents since it is scheduled to be removed from her island property shortly. The ashes from the fire pit would need to be moved to the dumpster. Dana Gruber offered to move some of the ashes.
- Doug Allen reported that Peninsula Light has offered to gift the North Beach street lamp to HMC and they will remove the overhead wires that were of concern to boaters at the North Beach Marina. A member in audience reported that an additional breaker will be required which is a cost to the island. Paul Bray offered to donate the cost of these items since he feels that this would a great benefit to him when he moves his boat. Discussion followed about the value of ownership of this street lamp, considering future maintenance costs. Doug Allen will assess the value to HMC of pursuing this option.

Roads:

- The new piping at North Beach is installed, but the pump motor is not working. It will be taken in for service by Al Moren. He asked the Board if he has the authority to authorize repair service. **Janet Podell made a motion to give Al Moren authority to approve the repair and/or replacement of the motor. Motion carried.**
- A new water truck is probably going to be required within the next two years. We should begin looking for a replacement in the near future. Currently there is no money in this year's budget for a replacement truck. Money has been included in the Reserve budget for next year to cover this future expenditure.
- Signage on the island. Costs have been quoted for road sign replacement. It was noted that it is more costly for aluminum posts. Next year's budget is sufficiently funded for this expense (approx. \$2000). **Kathy Deuster made a motion to proceed with the plan to replace the 42 existing road/traffic signs. Motion carried.**
- A new sign was proposed for Ferry Street prohibiting parking at the ferry dock. Some members are placing their cars in the ferry line and leaving their vehicles unattended for long periods of time; sometimes overnight. This is in violation of the rules that prohibit parking on island roads. A notice will be placed in the Beachcomber.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- It was reported that long time HMC member Wilson Gay passed away on 7/11/08. Memorial Services are pending.
- Fred Fath reported that John Dolan will be moving off the island and has resigned his position on the Board for the remainder of his term (11 months.). The next candidate who received the highest votes in the recent election was Eric Bergson who has indicated his interest in serving out the remainder of John's term. **Fred Fath made the motion to appoint Eric Bergson to the board for this purpose. Motion carried.**
- George Newcomb was thanked for all of the articles he has submitted concerning the island's history.

Boosters:

- The Booster events for the recent holiday weekend were very successful. A Boosters potluck is scheduled in August after the HMC Board meeting.
- The Boosters are requesting Board permission for loud music for a Labor Day dance at the North Beach Pavilion. This will be shut down at midnight. **Judy Greinke made a motion to permit this request for August 30th. Motion carried.**

Beachcomber:

- The next Beachcomber will be the July issue. Inputs are required electronically no later than 5:00 PM on Wed. July 16, 2008. The Beachcomber Editor is beachcomber@herronisland.org.

Adjournment: Janet Podell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Podell
Secretary