

HMC Management Board Meeting Minutes (May 14, 2011)

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

Roll Call: Fred Fath, President/Treasurer, Mark Anderson, Vice President, Janet Podell, Secretary, Gary Wanzong. Asst. Treasurer, Judy Greinke, Member at Large, Claudia Ellsworth, Island Manager.

Doyle Parnell announced that he is recording the proceedings. Mark Anderson reported that he is also recording. Terrill Chilson asked about the legal ramification of publicizing recordings on other venues (such as a member's personal website). Mark Anderson responded that, given that this is a pseudo-public proceeding, it should be able to be recorded, so long as the subsequent use is lawful.

Previous Board Meeting Minutes:

- **Fred made a motion to accept the April '11 meeting minutes. Motion carried.**

Correspondence:

- There were five items of correspondence received into the office during the month. These were addressed as their subject matter came up during the course of the meeting.

Finance

- **Fred Fath made a motion to pay the bills. Motion carried.**
- Fred reported that our current budget is on track to the plan. The preliminary budget to be presented to the membership at the annual meeting will be published in the Beachcomber this month. Fred reminded everyone that this is a preliminary document. Members should expect to see significant changes in ferry fuel costs, Sanikans, other island services, and an increase to the contribution into the Ferry Reserve in preparation for engine replacement that may be required in the next few years. The final decision on this Reserve fund will be presented to the membership who will be asked to vote on whether they would choose to use Reserves or impose a special assessment for ferry engine replacement.
- Allen Moren asked if we have planned for Reserves for the docks and dolphins at both ferry docks. Fred reported those expenses are currently included in our Reserves. He went on to state that ferry fuel is far and away the biggest change to the HMC budget for next year.
- Fred also noted that there will be two budgets for the membership to vote on this year. There will be the Regular budget, and the Water utility budget. This concept was agreed to at last month's Board meeting when the HMC Water Utility was formed. Fred went on to explain again how the accounting will be handled during the first two years of our new water system.

Administration:

See the Island Manager's report for miscellaneous Administration issues not directly mentioned here.

- As reported to the membership last month, recent incidents of vandalism were reported to the Pierce County Sheriff. A suspect was identified and subsequently confessed when contacted by the Sheriff. Other HMC members took pictures and turned in complaints to the office. A formal Rules complaint has been filed against the member. Janet Podell reported that another member sent a letter to the office thanking the Island Manager and the Board for their expeditious handling of this matter. It sends a clear message that vandalism will not be tolerated on Herron Island. Carolyn Anspach, Tracy Anspach and Steve Chapin all expressed their outrage about the vandalism. Linda Moren stated her opinion that the Board has taken the whole thing out of proportion. She felt that the stickers were simply an expression of free speech. Several members spoke up to refute that opinion. Free speech does not include defacing others' property. Mark Anderson stated that the behavior still constitutes vandalism because it impacted the total membership.
- Dallas Amidon spoke up about some members' personal website and the bad feelings that are prevalent across the island. He felt that this is affecting real estate sales and the general goodwill of the membership across the island. In Dallas' opinion, the responsible parties should be more thoughtful before they air their dirty laundry. Fred Fath spoke up that we are not able to control what members post on their personal websites. We can only address and correct the falsehoods and distortions as best we can. Judy Greinke added that while we all have a right to express our opinions, people should make sure they ask questions and follow up to validate what is being said. The old adage "don't believe everything you read" comes to mind. Consider the motivations of the author/s, ask questions, and get the facts. The Island Manager and the Board are always willing to address members' questions about something that is published elsewhere.
- Pat Zazzo spoke up about a letter that went to the Key Peninsula News from a member about the recent issue of ferry noise. She felt the letter was not factual and asked if there would be a rebuttal to that letter. Alan DeGood expressed his opinion that at some point we need to just move on instead of dwelling on issues of the past. Frank VanRavenswaay felt that the Board should write a letter of apology to the mainland neighbors. Mark Anderson suggested that perhaps, for information purposes, we should send an update on the status of the noise issue to the newspaper. No final decision was reached.
- Carole Crowley complimented the Board for being the first HMC governing body to provide an avenue for members to communicate directly to the Board. She also suggested that members should get involved on the island committees so they are in a position to better understand how the island is run. This would go a long way towards alleviating some of the misinformation and distortions that are currently being published.
- Fourth of July security issue – This year is going to be difficult because the Sheriff's Dept. will not allow a single officer to come out to patrol the island. They informed the Island Manager that it would have to be two officers or none.

This was considered to be too costly. Linda Moren reminded members that in the past a notification was handed out on the ferry to remind members and their guests about the rules of the island. She recommended that we do this again. Terrill Chillson offered to prepare such a notice. Tracy Anspach stated that fireworks will only be allowed on Monday the 4th. Judy Greinke suggested that we offer a handout for Memorial Day too. General discussion followed. Jim Davies suggested that we form a "Safety Patrol" to be on duty for the weekend of the 4th. Diane DeGood offered to make ten orange Safety Patrol vests that say "Herron Island Safety Patrol" for the events. The patrol would not be a policing authority; but as their name states, a "safety patrol" to monitor the events and encourage safe practices for fireworks activities. Diane DeGood and Jim Davies agreed to solicit the volunteers for the team.

- Until now HMC currently did not have a personnel policy concerning drug and alcohol use. A policy was recently prepared and **Fred Fath made a motion to accept it as a formal HMC employee policy. Motion carried.**
- The issue of assessment late notices was discussed. Standard HMC policy requires payments to be received by the 30th of April and the 31st of October every year. General discussion followed relative to when late notices are sent to members whose payments are received after the due date.

Legal:

See the Island Manager's report for miscellaneous Legal issues not directly mentioned here.

- There are currently three delinquencies on record.

Land Use:

See the Island Manager's report for miscellaneous Land Use issues not directly mentioned here.

- No report

Transportation:

See the Island Manager's report for miscellaneous Transportation issues not directly mentioned here.

- Linda VanRavenswaay sent a letter to the office suggesting that a way to save on ferry expenses would be to eliminate all ferry runs one day a week. (Preferably Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.) If we were to eliminate one day's service it would save on fuel and crew wages. General membership discussion followed. Sharon Stone indicated that children need to go to school every day of the week along with many members who need to commute to work. Carole Crowley suggested that possibly some shuttle runs could be eliminated. Pat Zazzo suggested cutting down on some of the winter weekday evening runs. All suggestions are welcome and will be considered.
- A proposal was submitted by members of the crew to work on our Ferry Pass system which is currently inefficient and labor intensive. We could save money by having a more efficient pass system. The proposal is being reviewed.
- Coast Exteriors has re-roofed our two waiting sheds for **FREE. (Zero dollars!)** They will be hanging a small discrete advertising sign on each of the sheds in exchange for this valuable upgrade. A great big Thank You goes to Dana Gruber

and Claudia Ellsworth for bringing this to fruition. Judy Greinke suggested that this is one way to help the island in the future where opportunities exist to receive contractor services in exchange for discrete advertising.

- A letter has been sent to a member who was reportedly drinking alcoholic beverages on the ferry. Members are reminded that WA state laws prohibit drinking alcoholic beverages in vehicles and on passenger vessels. These rules apply on our ferry too.
- John Farris reminded us that the Ferry access policy needs to be kept up to date as we change other policies. (i.e. late assessment letters).
- **Fred Fath made a motion to accept and sign the final IBU agreement. Motion carried.**

Rules & Regulations:

- There are three open Rules violations pending before the Rules committee.

Emergency Preparedness:

See the Island Manager's report for miscellaneous Emergency Preparedness issues not directly mentioned here.

- Mike Davis stated that a new chairman of the Emergency Preparedness Committee needs to be identified since he is moving off the island. Mike and Claudia will get together to write a notice for the Beachcomber.
- We are still looking for a place to locate the emergency transmitter.

Water:

See the Island Manager's report for miscellaneous Water issues not directly mentioned here.

- Steve Chapin reported that the Water system upgrade has now migrated to the construction phase. We have hired a project engineer from NWS (Jester Purtemann) to oversee the project. Members will remember Jester from the February 26, 2011 Community Water Meeting. There is a revised timeline for construction that is posted at the Community center. Construction is currently scheduled to begin sometime between October and December of this year. Prepayments will be ready to be accepted by January or February of next year. Members can expect to see Jester regularly walking around the island. During construction you will be notified when your area will be under construction. More than likely this will be communicated via email. All members are encouraged to send their email addresses to the office. In addition, signs will be posted around the island.
- There will be a lot of fill dirt available to members (max. 500 cu yards per assessment). Members will be asked to notify HMC if you need fill dirt. This will save the cost of removing the materials from the island.
- Allen Moren asked if the Board would agree to Karl Schafer providing his collected water data to HMC and our agents. Discussion followed concerning the ability to access the data. **Mark Anderson made a motion to permit Karl Schafer to share his water data with Jester Purtemann so Jester can evaluate and integrate the information into the construction planning. Motion carried.** Fred Fath will contact Karl about this issue.
- Steve Chapin made a point of thanking Mike Davis for all of his work as our Water Manager over the past several years.

- Steve went on to say that the state requires us to conduct a “Water Use Efficiency” Meeting (WUE) every 6 years and the IM is required to report out every July 1st of our progress to the plan. The WUE meeting will be held at the Community Center at 1:00 today immediately following this Board meeting.

Parks:

- The Parks Dept. submitted a written report into the office. They named and thanked 50 volunteers who participated in the recent work parties last month. Volunteer names are identified in a posting on the website Home page.
- Some island maintenance issues remain open that are dependent on weather, available materials, supplies, and volunteer time.
- Special recognition went to Terry Fletcher and Sam Argo for updating our fire pit at North Beach. Materials and time were donated. Cheers, applause and thanks all around to those members.
- It was reported that some trees have fallen in the Nature Park that are intruding on a private lot. So there are no issues of trespassing, the homeowner is being notified and a determination will be made on how to remove the debris.
- Tracy Anspach thanked and made a special note about the performance of this Board in keeping important projects moving forward despite pockets of resistance that have surfaced in recent years.
- The North Beach Marina project is currently in the permitting phase. Important details about the status of this project can be found in the Island Manager’s report. George Newcomb provided a Beachcomber article from 1963 that discusses the North Beach pilings. This will go a long way with the County in establishing grandfathered rights relative to some of the permitting issues, since it provides evidence that the pilings were in place prior to the 1971 Shoreline Management Act. Thank you George!

Roads:

See the Island Manager’s report for miscellaneous Road issues not directly mentioned here.

- Allen Moren reported that the roads are in good shape. A pending project at the North Beach is being worked. Dick Mowry reported that all of the concrete from the Kennison house has been salvaged to be used for erosion control purposes in the future.
- Capt. Farris asked if we could restripe the asphalt on Ferry road. Dick Mowry and Allen Moren indicated that this could be done later on this summer.

Technology:

- No Report

Rumor Control/Member Issues:

- Mark Anderson reported more and more members are using our Member Input email account to communicate their thoughts and concerns to the Board.
- The DeGoods brought up the status of their ownership on the Tchochiev property. The final legal motion approving the sale will occur through Pierce County Superior Court and Mark Anderson will check on the status of that motion.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- There was a reminder about tonight's Boosters Potluck being held at 6:00 PM at the Community Center. (Safely out of the weather!) All members were invited and encouraged to attend.
- Four candidates have submitted applications for one of the two open Board positions: They are: Diane DeGood, Kathy Deuster, Kevin Hildebrandt and Pat Zazzo. Their resumes will be posted in this month's Beachcomber.

Beachcomber:

- The next Beachcomber will be the May issue. Inputs are required electronically no later than 5:00 PM on Wed. May 18, 2011. The Beachcomber Editor is beachcomber@herronisland.org.

Adjournment: Judy Greinke made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Podell
Secretary