

MINUTES of the MICA General Meeting

January, 15, 2018

Board Members attending: Patricia Earnest, President; Carol Gonnella, Vice-President; Susan Petek, Treasurer; Patti Ivers, Secretary; Sandy Barrett and Ward Mefford, Members-at Large. Absent: Chris Prescott, Nominating Committee.

President, Patricia Earnest called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. She welcomed new residents and guests to the Island. Flag Pledge was led by Lee Does.

Old Business:

Patricia announced that the Minutes of the General Meeting of November 20, 2017, were posted on our www.marrowsstoneisland.org website. She thanked Pete Hubbard for his effort in creating a web page but this site had not been updated for many years and a new site has been created.

Minutes of November 20, 2017, Meeting. Approved.

Treasurer and Cemetery Report: Susan Petek reported that there was \$1,422.77 in the MiCA General Checking Account, \$20,812.31 in the Cemetery account, and \$12,131 in the Cemetery Committee CD.

Membership: Susan reported that we have 81 paid members. She passed around the list and also informed all that membership forms were available to fill out.

Cemetery Committee: Bruce Carlson stated that new plots have been purchased. Headstone clean-up continues and there would be landscape clean-up in the Spring.

Marrowsstone Island Foundation: Bruce Carlson gave a brief overview of what MIF does and asked that folks consider running for the MIF Board. There are three openings for a 3 year term. He asked that past Board members stand-up and be acknowledged. MIF is working on training courses/workshops for CPR, First Aid. Ray Harker talked about CERT program.

Bill Woolf introduced Amazon/Smile. If you have a computer, you've probably bought something on line. And the giant in the business is Amazon, based right here in Washington. Wouldn't it be great if every single Amazon purchase helped make Marrowsstone Island an even better place to live? It can. And it's easy, with the Amazon "Smile" Program! Smile.Amazon.com

Nominating Committee: Hank Hazen volunteered to be on the Nominating Committee with Chris.

Refreshment Committee: Becky Illman volunteered to head up the refreshments for March.

Emergency Preparedness: Pete Hubbard and Kurt Steinbach – nothing to report.

New Business

Citizen of the Year: Mike Zimmerman explained the criteria for nominating a Marrowstone Island resident for the Citizen of the Year 2017. Voting consisted of past Citizens of the Year and two MICA Board members. There were many outstanding nominees this year. Mike asked that we pause for a moment to remember past Citizens that are no longer with us and most recently Carl Johnson. Nicole and Wayne Chimenti were chosen Citizen of the Year 2017. Mike gave a sampling of their many contributions to the Island and Jefferson County and especially the assistance to the young people arriving in this area. A dinner will be held later to celebrate them.

Guest Speaker: Kathleen Kler, Jefferson County Commissioner. Kathleen began with announcing that she was no longer Chair. The new Chair is David Sullivan, District 2 Commissioner. Kathleen commented that elected officials heard from County residents that land use was the major concern across Jefferson County. She felt Marrowstone Island residents voiced their concerns regarding land use and our Comprehensive Plan. County is trying to balance economic growth and resources. Marrowstone is growing and water continues to be an issue. Jefferson County overwhelmingly voted to have Marijuana as part of a regulated, lawful industry. How do we handle now that it is legal in WA State? The County knows there are problems and complaints regarding odor, whether it is an agriculture crop, cottage industry, and the laws and codes that are currently in the Comp Plan. All land use problems presented to Commissioners other than working with comprehensive plan and helping to set code, are part of DCD and Commissioners do not get to vote on land use problems. Mr. Smith went through the permit process and the Hearing Examiner, a neutral person, makes that decision. The Hearing Examiner changed his ruling and I don't know other than what I read. Mr. Smith gets to put in another application in 6 months.

The Commissioner also commented on Growler noise and asked for a raise of hands if you are impacted. Many hands went up.

Many islander had questions and shared their concerns over the way the County has been handling the permit process for Austin Smith application for a marijuana grow/processing facility on the island. Is there a conflict of interest with Kevin Coker, Planning Commissioner, and consultant to Mr. Smith? How is oversight on Planning Commission? How do MI residents have more input in writing the MI Comp Plan? Fish pens were also a concern. Who makes the laws that go into the BOCC? Residents suggested a moratorium on the project until the Comp Plan is finished in June. Many questions concerning rural residential land use with this type of industry included odor, noise, security, property value declines, water, and safety. It was pointed out that residents move here for the rural environment, average age 72, and we do have cottage industry, but Mr. Smith's project does not fall under cottage industry.

The Commissioner explained that the Planning Commission is advisory and is appointed by the County Commissioners. The DCD staff makes permit decisions. The County Commissioners do not vote or influence land use outcome. A Hearing Examiner, is a judge and is neutral, and makes those decisions. The County is trying to figure it out and balance economic growth and how a business fits into the community. Marrowstone residents continued to ask questions and to reiterate some of the regulations Mr. Smith did not complete for his permit including residency, noise control, and a number of issues as stated by the Hearing Examiner. The DCD was ready to give a permit because the Planning Commission said he was in compliance. A Hearing Examiner was brought in ONLY when residents of Marrowstone Island voiced complaints in e-mails, letters, and phone calls. The Hearing Examiner heard our voices, and ruled Mr. Smith was not in compliance. The HE did change his ruling and now Mr. Smith can reapply in 6 months.

Residents are committed to working on the Comp Plan with the County. Kathleen was thanked for coming and hearing our concerns and answering our questions.

In Our Midst – Carol Gonnella introduced long- time resident, Pat Burns. Carol presented a beautiful portrayal of Pat’s life along with a long family history of living on the island when her grandparents came from Norway in the 1890’s. Pat attended Port Townsend H.S. and also became the 4th Rhody Queen. A slide presentation was made dating back to her grandparents, her parents, and her return to Marrowstone Island in 1977. Pat and Bud built the house that Pat still lives in. She drove the ambulance until she reached the age of 72. They were Citizens of the Year in 1994. She is a young 98 ½. She golfs, swims, and plays pickle ball. She said the best time of her life is right now.

Bruce Carlson presented a slideshow regarding on-going concerns for East Jefferson County Fire Department emergency response time to the island. In 2016 we had 68 incidents with a response time of 17.4 minutes and 2017 saw 108 incidents and a response time of 14 minutes. Marrowstone Island has the worse response time in the County. Chimacum is the closes 11 to 21 minutes away. Bruce laid out the plans for an LID and costs to taxpayers. He presented plans to purchase our own building to house a staff which would be cheaper. It was voted down. MIF investigated legalities, loan costs, costs to residents, and staffing issues. Our objective was not building a new building but reducing response time. After spending hours in meetings, reviewing options, figuring costs to property owners, and assuming that the new building and equipment would staff a 24/7 crew, the EJFR informed us that there was no budget for staff now or in the foreseeable future. However, the comment was made, “build it and they will come.”

Jim Walkowski is the new Fire Chief. He comes from a district that had over 100 volunteers and we are hoping he will change the volunteer environment that now exists at EJFR. Their policy and program has been mixed. Jim knows the history and spent time with a crew and drove the island. They will get back to us in a couple of weeks.

We have subcommittees. Several EMT will help implement a better program. Bruce was acknowledged for the many hours he has spent working on this to a round of applause. Islanders raised many questions. Is there any precedent for a private entity to hire for our island? Training slots need to be set aside for MI volunteers. Why doesn't the County absorb some of the cost of this LID? These are all good questions and we know right now volunteers would have to go to Chimacum where they get the calls and would get the stipend. We'd like to have more on the MIF board. Bruce felt letters could be written and go to the Commissioner's meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Patti Ivers

MICA, Secretary