

Marrowstone Island Community Association (MICA)

Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2020

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance

President Bud Ayres called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM after a slight technical delay. He asked Bob Barrett to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Following the pledge, Ayres welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2020.

2. Acknowledgement of Martine Luther King Day

At the request of Linda Secord who was unable to attend due to illness, Carol Gonnella was invited to read a passage in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr., and ending with a favorite quote speaking to everyone one having come “here on different ships . . . but we’re all in the same boat now.”

3. Committee Reports

A. Food Questionnaire

Radha Newsome (MICA board member-at-large) outlined a project she has undertaken as a student at Peninsula College and invited attendees to complete a questionnaire on food choices. She indicated that this can be done using a paper questionnaire or by attendees putting their email addressed in a notebook she circulated after concluding her comments.

B. Cemetery

Bruce Carlson spoke on behalf of the Cemetery Committee which has had ‘several’ resignations. The nominating committee has put forward two (2) individuals who have indicated their willingness to serve: Linda Patterson and Kathleen Waldron. Following brief discussion, Carlson asked for a show of hands and both women were approved as members of the committee.

C. Emergency Preparedness

Dick Illman, acting treasurer of the Emergency Preparedness Committee, spoke to the importance of preparedness in the event of a disaster. He referred to the Department of Emergency Preparedness and its encouragement of communities having a plan in place to “get resources where needed” and to know who’s “available to help”. Three critical items are:

- i. A communications system – for Marrowstone, there is an operational amateur ham radio network, and handheld radio system as well. This network is tested each week by local operators;
- ii. Identification of transport resources, including a mobilization plan; and

- iii. Knowledge of the island and its residents, including response expertise.

Illman emphasized the need for clear understanding that, in the event of an emergency, Marrowstone Island will need to rely on island residents only.

Illman moved on to the desire of the founding members of the Emergency Preparedness Committee to ease out of the work of the committee. After ten (10) years, the members are requesting they be relieved of their positions and transition to new members. Kurt Steinbach had flyers with the emergency information that he distributed after emphasizing the new for new membership of the committee. He noted that if attendees were not personally interested, they might know someone who would be and to please let people know of the need.

D. Friends of Fort Flagler (FoFF)

Mark Secord, newly-elected chair of the Friends of Fort Flagler, Spoke to it being an “exciting time” at the Fort and mentioned upcoming events and projects:

- i. March 14, 2020 – Second Annual Celtic and Cajun Event.
- ii. The Mystery Bay Shelter rebuild -- a gift from the son of the “Hermit of Mystery Bay” in the form of a request to those attending a memorial service for his father and the resulting contributions will be made available to FoFF to rebuild the shelter.
- iii. Restoration of the WWII Fort Flagler Theatre – the budget will require a capital budget allocation from the State so advocacy is essential. In its current condition, it is rented by 60% of the groups meeting at the Fort. Secord noted that state parks, since the 2008 recession, have been dependent on fees for services such as rentals and other funding such as grants. One of the easiest ways to help is to become a member of the Friends. Responding to a question about Spring Clean-up, Secord noted it was at the end of March. Vigo Anderson offered that the upper campground clean-up is set for March 28, 2020.

E. Other

- i. At the conclusion of committee reports, Bud Ayres noted the MIF annual meeting is Thursday, January 23, 2020, and will be held at the Nordland Garden Club also.
- ii. The MICA Strawberry Festival is scheduled for June 20, at the Garden Club grounds.
- iii. A Spring meeting will put a focus on services for the aged and what kind of community outreach is needed to seniors in the local area.

F. WSDoT Isthmus Bridge Project Update

Dan McKernon, Project Engineer with WSDOT, administering the contract for the “Killisut Harbor Fish Barrier Removal”, including a four-span bridge across the isthmus from Indian Island. He outlined the schedule of the project from the early project initiation , receipt of three (3) bids for the project, ranging from 10.3 million to 9.1 million, and the awarding of

the contract to Cascade Construction, Inc., for its bid of 9.1 million. Work began on August 5, 2019, with a 320 working days schedule. At this time, the expectation is to “set girders’ in mid-February with traffic moving across the completed bridge in an August-September timeframe and project completion now scheduled for October. He presented images showing the techniques in use for the project, including bladder dams, epoxy-coated rebar, cofferdam construction, a large enviro-tank used to process water so when returned to bay or harbor waters it is not damaging. Asked about waste material and its disposal, McKernon responded that the Contractor brings it in and after use returns it to the company’s offsite yard location. He noted that utilities will eventually run under the bridge decking in conduit – both water and electric wiring. The bridge is designed to current earthquake norms. Asked about naming the bridge and if island residents might have a part in that, he responded that he wasn’t certain and would “look into it,” and get back to Bud Ayres. A comment was made about how well-maintained the site has been. McKernon acknowledged this and noted that the environmental team had been out to review the site on several occasions and always found it in good order. Another question was about whether the traffic lights were “smart” lights. They are not. In response to a final question, the project is on time and on budget.

4. In Our Midst

Scott Brinton, founding member and Executive Director of the Cedar Root Folk School spoke, beginning with the fact that the school is in its 11th year with thirty-five (35) faculty and a Board of Directors with seven (7) members. Cedar Root began with its youth programs. It offers non-certified forest programs for pre-school throughout Jefferson County: Sequim, Port Townsend, Port Hadlock and Chimicum.

As it has grown, it has expanded to include adult programs with a focus on craftsmanship. Jefferson Land Trust is a major partner as is the County Parks & Recreation department. He celebrated one young student’s success as a result of her experience with Cedar Root. Asked about the new Reserve, Brinton commented that he would “love to do some citizen science work” there. To follow up, he acknowledged having seen evidence of cougar, otter and other evidence “radiating up from seashore” things he referred to as “eco tones”.

As to finances, Cedar Root is dependent, predominately, on fees for service. They represent 90% of all revenues. Last year, it was able to provide \$ 7000 in scholarships but this year, the amount is more likely going to be half (\$ 3,500). The school is working hard to “dissolve financial barriers.” Following a number of questions, McKernon responded that summer programs are all summer long for the young students; for those 6-12, the programs are typically weeklong ; and, the school also offer teenage expeditions. While he was very familiar with the European Folk Schools, McKernon offered that Cedar Root might be “loosely based” on them. He noted that a Grand Marais, Minnesota, program has been very helpful in assisting Cedar Root in its development. The school was advised and has worked hard to avoid a “brick & mortar campus”. Instead, it utilizes resources already in place and available in this local four city area of Jefferson County. Adult classes are held all over: agricultural classes are typically in Chimicum, Woodworking are held in Port Townsend and others in the Old Nordland Church on the island.

5. The Citizen of the Year Award

Dick Chimenti opened his remarks by noting that “as always” there were too many nominations yet, this year fully two-thirds of nominations were for the same individuals, Bruce and Andrea Carlson. He noted that Bruce had been very active working for manned Fire Services on the Island, as well as with the Friends of Fort Flagler. Andrea had just stepped down from the Board of the FoFF and was currently President of the Nordland Garden Club. They have been great supporters of local marine services as well as the Northwest School of Woodworking. After appropriate applause, Bruce Carlson spoke to their pleasure at being selected although he noted that he’d only been involved with the Fire Station effort for the last 6 or 7 years and there were so many people who’d worked for years to this end and he’d had the good fortune to help “push it over the top.” After which comment, he noted that the phrase “it takes a village” is what “comes to mind.” All of that said, he paused and wondered, with regard to Marrowstone Island Foundation, “what do we do next?”

Bud Ayres adjourned the meeting at 8:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marijo Brantner
Secretary