

## **Marrowstone Island Community Association (MICA) Meeting Minutes - 12/14/2020**

The meeting started at approximately 7:00 PM, called to order by President Bud Ayres. The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all, led by Bob Barrett.

Following a few preliminary remarks by Bud Ayres, asked for corrections or amendments to the minutes for the November meeting. There being none, the minutes were adopted. He also noted that the Treasurer's Report would be provided at the December meeting as Susan Petek was unable to attend this meeting.

### **Concerning Island Events**

1. Bud noted that there are plans to expand the Strawberry Festival, assuming it can be held.
2. He mentioned as well the concept of a Photography Exhibit, plans for which have yet to be formalized.
3. Vigo Anderson spoke to a change in plans for nominations regarding Citizen of the Year. They will be solicited starting now but will be held through 2021 in light of the pandemic and formally awarded in 2022. There is a nominations box outside at the Nordland Store. Decisions will be made for both 2020 and 2021 in January of 2022.
4. As a matter of general interest, Patricia Earnest noted that with regard to the Nordland store fire, there is no insurance update as yet. However, an account has been set up at the 1st Security Bank in the names of Tom and Sue Rose as well as an online donation opportunity at: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/nordland-general-store> to support costs that are not covered by insurance.
5. Marijo Brantner noted that the Nordland Garden Club had \$ 11,925 in receipts for its annual wreathmaking effort, with \$4160 in expenses for a net gain of \$7,765. The club has pared its expenses during the pandemic as it is not holding meetings, wreaths were made – for the most part – in members' homes, and will not be awarding scholarships in the spring. All things considered, it was an excellent return for the wreath effort this year.

### **Committee Reports**

1. Bruce Carlson reported that there have been six (6) additional lot sales for \$ 2400. Some extra work has been done on the flower beds, general clean-up, and mulching. As there was tree breakage an arborist was hired to trim trees back for a cost of \$1,600. In addition, new members have joined the committee: Kathleen Waldron and Linda Patterson.
2. Mark Secord spoke on behalf of the Friends of Fort Flagler (FFF), noting that there were no concerts this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, there was a record number of daily visitors -- up 30%. This suggests a very exciting year ahead. A major effort is rebuilding the picnic area at the Mystery Bay State Park, replacing benches and adding a few more as well. The Building Trail Stewards program is busy in part as park staff has been thinned. He noted that the late John Comstock contributed significantly not only to FFF but also to birding efforts in the area. Deisy Bach's and the Natural History Committee have lots of work going on. Secord highlighted the need for advocacy as Fort Flagler will be in the Governor's Capital Budget with the hope of getting a new welcome center, closer to the park entrance. Another focus is renovation of the theatre building. He concluded his remarks by asking people to sign up as members of the FFF, noting that the fee is \$15 per family, \$100 for supporting members (and you get a mug), and \$500 as lifetime members (also get a mug). He asked for help with the advocacy program and urged attendees to go online to: <https://friendsoffortflagler.org>.
3. Bud Ayres briefly mentioned the need for members on the Emergency Preparedness

committee. He also noted that the antenna at Twin Vista is up and operating. The Wednesday radio checks continue.

## **Kilisut Harbor Restoration Project**

Kevin Long, Project Manager for the Bridge Restoration Project, joined the meeting to report on the completion of this project to restore salmon habitat between Indian and Marrowstone islands. At the outset, Long credited John Gussman as the photographer of the images featured in the presentation. After a decade of work to get project underway through its build, he was pleased to report that now only plantings remain to be completed.

Long highlighted both challenges (damage to the bladder dams requiring patching and onsite inventiveness when patch kits failed, as well as working below tide level with heavy equipment in time- constrained night sessions, as examples) and successes (project on time, on budget, oyster beds' return to healthy production, "giant" schools of smelt and chum salmon recorded in Kilisut Harbor).

Long concluded that throughout the project, the crews appreciated the interest and consideration of the island residents. "Kindness paid dividends", according to Long, with a crew that was excellent to work with also brought the project in on budget. On a personal note, Long appreciated having a project close to his home as it saved long commutes – especially during night work. Bruce Carlson offered his perspective that the island residents appreciated that the project appeared always to be well-organized, tidy, the site well-managed and he offered congratulations to all.

Bud Ayres encouraged everyone to reach out and thank Kevin Long of the North Atlantic Salmon Coalition for advocacy as well as the participation of the US Navy, the S'Klallam Tribe and the Washington Department of Transportation.

## **Other Reports**

Bruce Carlson reported briefly on behalf of the Marrowstone Island Foundation (MIF): November financials are available on the MIF website (<https://marrowstoneislandfoundation.org/finances.html>). For island residents who use the Amazon Smile program, if MIF is your 'charity of choice' for that program, ½% of money spent will be income to MIF; and, the MIF tee shirt sales continue thanks to Cynthia Rowe. In addition, he noted that currently the Operating Budget has \$24,000, the restricted Money Market account has \$163,000, and reserve funds of \$128,000 raised for the fire house that has not been disbursed when the original plan to purchase a building fell through. The money will be disbursed when it "is reasonable to do so." At this time, volunteers are needed to staff and respond to calls.

Jim Nurenberg, liaison to the firehouse project, is a part-time island resident. He outlined, in general, the current plan for getting housing accommodations in the firehouse complex on the island: two buildings currently that house equipment only. The site needs a residential building – perhaps an apartment and bunkhouse. Work continues to secure an operational tender truck. In addition, there is a septic issue as the firehouse site is "too wet", the resolution for which requires a Right of Way (ROW) access easement given to the firehouse in return for providing septic service to the property owners granting the easement. Design has been completed and once the issue has been resolved, permits will be requested and East Jefferson Fire & Rescue has contractor ready to get underway. At this time, construction will likely be manufactured or modular – pricing is underway. EJFR new Chief Black is on-board with and supportive of the current plans.

Bruce Carlson offered that the current focus is on getting legal issues resolved and hoping to avoid delay at the county in the permitting processes. He suggested that voicing concerns to

the respective county commissioners could be helpful. He also noted that a change in chiefs has not helped as the former chief was very committed to this effort and the new chief has just “come onboard”.

Nurenberg reiterated that while he’s invested in working on the project, his is essentially as ‘ad hoc’ role and additional help would be welcome.

Bud Ayres thanked both Carlson and Nurenberg for their updates. He noted that Chief Black will be attending the January meeting.

Gary Rowe offered that the Post Office has installed a concrete pad on the north side of the firehouse. This will be the site for post office boxes only. Additional information suggested that it is part of a multi-step plan to return services to the island: over the counter mail retrieval at the Hadlock PO, boxes on the pad at the Firehouse location, and a permanent station, either at the store or other location.

In general news, Bud informed members that Owen Mulkey has broken his hip. He is at the Lifecare center.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marijo Brantner

Treasurer