

Marrowstone Island Community Association (MICA)

Meeting Minutes

9/24/2021

Meeting was called to order by President Bud Ayres at 5:16 PM at the Ayres Residence waterfront lawn and garden area. Attending in official capacity were Chief Bret Black and Battalion Commander Fletcher (one of three newly promoted officers) of East Jefferson Fire & Rescue (EJFR). Additional board members in attendance were Linda Secord, Marijo Brantner, Susan Petek, and Radha Newsom.

Treasurer Report & Membership

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Ayres welcomed all and invited any new members to the island to introduce themselves, including Katherine Ayres, Bud's mother newly arrived to the island from Florida. Susan Petek gave the Treasurer's Report noting there is \$991.66 in checking, \$ 13,141.36 in the Cemetery Fund CD, and thus far 15 individual and 20 family members having joined that evening. She thanked outgoing president, Bud Ayres, for his service and reminded people that if they needed to renew, they can always send their checks to MICA at PO Box 163, Nordland, WA 98358.

Island Events

- Bud Ayres outlined the current state of affairs with regard to the Island Fire Department complex: a contract to build a structure for housing staff is in place. The structure will likely be a prefabricated double-wide trailer with completion expected in August or September of 2022. An Open House is planned tentatively for summer of 2022.
- Mark Secord, President of the Friends of Fort Flagler, thanked everyone for the increase in memberships for his organization which now has 133 members for 2021 including lifetime and supporting memberships. He remarked on the continuing need for volunteers and that the big fall project is the replacement of the picnic shelter at Mystery Bay State Park.

Guest Speaker: Chief Bret Black, East Jefferson Fire & Rescue

Chief Black was introduced to say a few words about the MIF project for a new building on and increased services for Marrowstone Island. He began by recounting that he's relatively new here having arrived Thanksgiving weekend, 2020. He supervises 5 districts in Jefferson County's 65 Square miles with 25,000 residents. As of 9.1.2021 he also took over Port Ludlow Fire District. As a result, he spoke of "compression at the top" of the district's management which "has handicapped us for planning." He's made an effort to "promote battalion chiefs from within" to aid in building a strong management team. He introduced Battalion Chief Fletcher currently on his second shift in the position. Black noted that Fletcher lives in PA, and as he had himself, had begun his career as a volunteer and now manages a 48 hour shift based out of Station 11 in Chimacum. Fletcher spoke briefly, noting that while based out of the Chimacum station, all of the chiefs "roam" as the job takes them where they need to be in any given response situation. When Chief Black returned to the podium, he noted that the new structure of having the battalion chiefs demonstrates a level of growth that Black believes will enable critical efforts on the part of the department not only in the area of community outreach but also for strategic planning which is crucial, in his opinion, and will include the communities

within his department's service area. He noted that the last year has been challenging: managing a pandemic, emergency transport services, working with Jefferson Healthcare. He noted that his teams are well-trained "to serve" and are doing so at a higher level, having exceeded those reached at the end of 2020 with the surging pandemic again placing demands on services. He made particular mention of the burn ban which as of that date (9.24.2021) had been lifted for backyard open pit cooking or barbecuing. He emphasized that there is math and science behind the burn bans, that according to NOAA (the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration) the county is in a moderate – possibly soon to become a severe drought – so the brush pile burn ban remains in effect. Black concluded his remarks giving thanks to Bud Ayres and Jim Neurenberg for their ongoing contributions of time and effort toward expanding Station 12. He noted again the need for volunteers and specifically made the point that volunteers are needed in all kinds of roles: communications, outreach, emergency services, etc.. The district will train and equip volunteers to serve in appropriate roles. It's a "great place for volunteering" was his comment and with that he thanked MICA for the opportunity to be a part of the meeting. Bud Ayres followed up with news that John Gonnella, island resident, is the newest EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) and has begun taking shifts on the island.

MICA Board Recruitment & Community Survey

MICA Vice-president Linda Secord briefly spoke on the matter of board membership in the time of a pandemic. She began by thanking Bud for his extended term as president but noted that there is no current president. She also noted that the secretary board position will also be vacated soon as will the treasurer role. She encouraged anyone with an interest in serving to please let her or other board members know. She also thanked everyone for coming and introduced Radha Newsom, board member, to outline the survey attendees will be asked to take on "programs and activities of interest to those on the island."

Radha Newsom reiterated that the purpose of the survey is to "hear from you about what interests you have" that MICA might support to "educate, inform, bring islanders together on items/issues of interest." As Radha spoke, Linda Secord distributed stick-on dots to attendees (3 each) with the intention that people could put one or all dots on the items of greatest interest to them on the list thereby selecting the items of greatest interest as they will have the largest number of dots.

On the Community Survey List, the following items were listed as MICA Meetings & Activities topics:

- Political Candidates (already done)
- In Our Midst (already done)
- Jefferson County Emergency Response (already done)
- Local Speakers (already done)
- Jefferson Proposals of Interest (already done)
- Community Response to Societal Issues (already done)
- Island Small Businesses

A blank sheet was also made available for attendees to mark down items of interest that do not fall in one or more of the categories listed.

Yahoo Groups Effort

Bud Ayres took the podium again to emphasize the need for new officers for MICA and that if anyone had an interest, to please let Linda or others know. He then introduced Cheryl Brunette to speak to a new online communication tool for islanders.

Ms. Brunette is the Secretary/Communications Committee Chair for MIF. She began by noting that the NextDoor online application is “not well suited to our purposes.” That said, she spoke of a Yahoo group that has been set up for Marrowstone residents/property owners only. It can be “subdivided” so as to have an online hub for the garden club, MICA, MIF or other organizations needing such an online opportunity to communicate easily but with restriction to islanders only. She noted that the site could be found by going online to “groups.io”, then searching for Marrowstone Island. She also had a sign-up sheet at the entry table where one can put one’s email address and interest in joining and they will be invited to do so online.

The ‘.io’ address speaks to “Indian Ocean” and has become a much-appreciated address for many groups. She also noted that a major interest of Marrowstone Island Foundation (MIF) has always been emergency services and began when an islander needed emergency transport only to find there was none. So, a service was begun and later followed the foundation which today is deeply involved with expanding emergency services on the island.

Linda Secord thanked everyone once again for attending and reminded them the MICA meetings will be held in November, January, March and May. She is hopeful as well that June will bring the return of the Strawberry Festival.

With no further business for the good of the order, the meeting adjourned at 5:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marijo Brantner
Secretary