

Marrowstone Island Community Association (MICA)
September 20, 2022
Community Meeting @ Nordland Garden Club

Attendees: approximately 60 community members and MICA Board Members in attendance at the Nordland Garden Club location.

The meeting was called to order by President Linda Secord at 6:10 PM. Linda welcomed all that were present, members and candidates, stated that this was the first in person MICA meeting in two years because of past COVID precautions. The agenda was distributed, and Linda introduced Carol Gonnella to begin the candidates' forum.

Candidates Forum

Carol Gonnella explained the Candidates Forum format as 4-minute statements by each candidate followed for community questions, and rebuttal by candidates. John Gonnella would act as timekeeper to keep session to time allotted. The following notes are not a transcript of the actual discussions but a high-level glimpse about the presentations. See the official campaign websites for details about each candidate.

Candidates

- Steve Tharinger [incumbent] and Brian Pruiett, candidates for Position 2 of State House of Representative, Legislative District 24 [Nordland district].
 - Steve was first to make his statement. He has been a state representative for 12 years and this is his 7th term. His focus has been on parks, libraries, monies for Fort Flagler and Fort Warden, \$22 M sewer system for Port Hadlock, Dental Clinics and help to the ageing and those with disabilities.
 - Brian read a prepared speech. He read that he is PNW native and a retired army combat veteran.
 - Steve responded for 1 minute. He highlighted public safety issues/laws as important and in particular how police interact with the community as current issue.
 - Brain responded that key issues to clean up is where laws prevent police from dealing with thefts, drug addiction and to the need to clear out court backlogs.
 - There was a question from the audience regarding the global problem of homelessness and no programs for mental health. Brian stated that there was a need for a state mental health hospital. Steve stated that WA state is ranked 46th in the US for dealing with mental health and there is currently no solution.
- Mike Chapman [incumbent] and Sue Forde [not able to attend] candidates for Position 1 of State House of Representative, Legislative District 24 [Nordland district].
 - Mike stated that he has a 35-year law enforcement history and serves on many natural resource committees. He talked about his experience and in jest said that he would be happy to talk about Sue's platform but didn't do so.

- Greg Brotherton [incumbent] and Marcia Kelbon, candidates for County Commissioner, District 3.
 - Greg opened his comments by stating that in 2018 he spoke at the MICA candidates meeting. Greg reminded all that he was the first licensed marijuana retailer in Jefferson County, and he was on the commission when MI objected to a grower and processing facility on the island. He said he strives to work for the people of Jefferson County with action, compassion and teamwork on issues that affect us all — affordable housing, broadband and regulatory reform.
 - Marcia said she lives in Quilcene and her studies and career included Bachelors and Masters degrees in Chemical Engineering and she worked for the U.S. Navy as a civilian engineer. She also earned a law degree from the University of Washington and practiced as a patent attorney. Her concerns are that record-high tax revenue and federal funding is being used to build homeless encampments, hiding away people who are often ill without treating the underlying addiction and mental illness that plague so many.
 - During Q and A there was a question asked why building codes could not be stretched a little to help with easing low-income housing building and what is the path to get homeless into housing and work. The candidates replied for one minute each.
- Joe Nole [incumbent] and Art Frank, candidates for Jefferson County Sheriff
 - Joe stated that he has been involved in law enforcement in Jefferson County for the past 39 years. Thirty-two years with the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office and seven years as a Backcountry Ranger with the United States Forest Service on the Quilcene Ranger District. Focus areas include mental health navigators, body cams and drug help in the jails.
 - Art stated that he was running against his boss. He expressed concerns that there are sufficient plans in place for action and coordination across county and state agencies in case of emergency situations and that the department was in need of strong leadership.

10 Minute Break to speak to the candidates before the continuation of the general meeting.

Election of MICA Board

Linda Secord stated at this general meeting the election of this year’s board members needed to be approved. Linda read the list of positions and the candidates that have agreed to be on the board.

President: Linda Secord
 Vice-Pres. Gary Rowe
 Secretary: Colleen Ebken
 Treasure: Susan Petek
 At-Large: Radha Newsom
 At-Large: TBD
 Former Presidents [Non-voting]: Bud Ayres, Carol Gonnella, Patricia Earnst

A motion to appoint these candidates was raised, seconded and approved.

Special Thanks

Linda thanked Sandy Barrett for her many years of service to the MICA Board and most recently as an At-Large member.

MICA General Meeting Dates 2022-2023

Linda stated that general meeting will occur on Tuesdays except of the November meeting [Monday] because of a conflict for use of the Nordland Garden Club in this date.

- November 7, 2022
- January 17, 2023
- March 21, 2023
- May 16, 2023

The annual Strawberry Festival will occur mid to late June and the date will be announced and all dates will be posted on the MICA website.

Treasurer Report

Susan Petek reported that MICA currently has 81 members, and that the organization has submitted the IRS form 1023 to file for 501(c)3 status.

Cemetery Committee

Cynthia Rowe reported that there has been a lot of work done to re-establish the required paperwork for the official designation of the Sound View Cemetery this and MICA 501(c)3 status update will be used to obtain liability insurance for the cemetery and the MICA officers. The cost of plots will be raised to \$500/plot to help defray increased costs for maintenance of the cemetery and cost of the new insurance. Lisa Price was nominated, seconded and approved as a new member of the committee replacing a retiring member.

Nordland Store Update

Carol Gonnella reported discussions with Anna Watt [out of town for this meeting] and her interest in establishing a coffee roastery and small store in the existing Nordland General store building. She is going through the licensing and permit process to establish this space. She hopes to open by summer 2023. It appears that the PO will reopen but may not be staffed as it was in the past.

MIF

Bud Ayres reported that the building is here! [for fire station]. 5-7 days to join the halves. There was a small amount of transport damage that will be repaired. New crew quarters!

FOFF

Mark Secord reported that as usual there are a lot of good things going on. A good relationship has been fostered with the S'Klallam tribes as was witnessed by the mini-canoe trip weekend. Plans are still underway for renovation of the WWII theater; permitting is ready to proceed and looking for \$1.2M in funding in 2024. FOFF currently has 140 members.

November 7 General Meeting Agenda

Doug Moore is trying to arrange for presentation on tsunami mapping Marrowstone Island.

8:30 Meeting adjourned.