

Marrowstone Island Community Association (MICA) Bi-Monthly Meeting
May 23, 2023
Nordland Garden Club

Attendees: an official count of attendees was not made but meeting room at the Garden Club had all 40 chairs filled.

Presidents Call to Order

Linda Secord opened the meeting at 7:04 welcoming all to an important and interesting MICA meeting. Today there would be update on General Island Information, Bylaw Revisions Vote, Election of MICA Board 2023-24, a presentation about “The Grief Experience” by Jessica Lowe, the Strawberry Festival update, and an “In Our Midst” presentation highlighting an island resident.

Linda stated that as is traditional she would ask if there any new people attending the meeting. Patti Buckland and John and June Thompson introduced themselves and Linda welcomed them to their first MICA meeting.

Treasurer Report

Linda delivered the Treasurer’s Report for Susan Petek who was not able to attend.

MICA Funds:

- \$1080 – general MICA fund
- \$9260 – general Cemetery Fund
- \$15,227 – Cemetery CD

Marrowstone Island Foundation [MIF] Update

Bud Ayers delivered the MIF update:

- The concrete walkway frames have been installed the specifications for the retaining wall were out for review.
- A new 12’ x 20” gazebo has been donated and it will be located behind the crew quarters. This installation will require a new permit before installation can begin.
- The official open house for the crew quarters is still planned to occur September 23, 2023.
- The fire station has been renamed Station 5 as part of the integration with the Port Ludlow fire district.
- There is promise of new hires for Station 5, but no details were presented.

Friends of Fort Flagler [FOFF] Update

Mark Secord updated attendees about ongoing, future efforts, and activities of the FOFF:

- FOFF was disappointed to announce that the funding for the final restoration of the WWII theater were not approved at the state level. There is a plan to follow up with representative Steve Tharinger regarding next steps.
- FOFF conducted its annual general meeting to a large contingent of its members. Vigo Anderson was presented the “strong tie” award.
- Bench “planting” is progressing at Fort Flagler to the delight of park visitors.
- There is an amazing series of talks and walks coming up and the details are listed on the FOFF website <https://friendsoffortflagler.org/>

Marrowstone Island Branch of Post Office and Nordland Store Update and Naming of the Water Passage Under the New Bridge

Linda delivered the update:

- There is currently no definitive date if and when the Post Office will be opened on the island.
- The future of the Nordland Store is still undetermined.
- Janet Welch stated that The Washington State Committee on Geographic Names has approved a new name for the passage between Marrowstone Island and Indian Island. The waterway will be called Passage Through, the translation of a Clallam word. Having this passage named will be important to the S’Klallam tribes with this year’s Big Canoe Journey.

Cemetery Committee Update

Kathleen Waldron present the update for the Sound View Cemetery Committee. She stated that the Sound View Cemetery Committee has been busy, and we will report briefly on 4 topics:

1. We are applying for a Washington State Private Cemetery License. Bruce Carlson been spearheading this project & will bring us up to date.

Bruce: The Cemetery Committee is working with the WA State Department of Licensing to prepare an application package, with supporting documentation, for a license for Sound View Cemetery. Apparently, it has been a long-standing oversight that we need a proper Private Cemetery License from the State in order to be in full compliance with State Laws (Chapter 68.20 RCW). The State is being very understanding and helpful in assisting us to obtain a license. We have been assured that we are exempt from laws passed since Sound View Cemetery was established which require Endowment Care Funds as well as granting forgiveness of penalties for past noncompliance.

The first steps in obtaining a license include acknowledgement that MICA, formerly called the Nordland Community Club, is in fact the owner of the Cemetery property and has been managing the Cemetery with a sub-committee of MICA composed of members elected by the MICA membership. It is necessary to formally include the oversight and operation of the Cemetery as a specified purpose of MICA in its Articles of Incorporation, and to establish separate By-laws governing cemetery operation and maintenance. We will be presenting this application package to the MICA Board for their approval and submission to the State at their April meeting.

2. Sound View Cemetery Sign some of you may have noticed that our sign is now shorter. The posts holding it had been rotting & this winter, a storm brought them down. Thanks to Bruce and Vigo Anderson, the sign is now attached to the metal fence. We are looking for ways to pay for a replacement, and Cynthia Rowe has been researching a WA State Historic Cemetery Preservation Grant. We will report more on this in the future.

3. Section E is open ~ Someone thought there were not many plots available, but since we have opened up Section E & there are a lot of them! (over 200, per Bruce) Come and visit!

4. MICA is now a 501(c) 3, so we can accept tax deductible donations for the Cemetery. I do not know if we have asked for donations before, but we are now. Before I was a member of the Cemetery Committee, I would listen to the MICA's Cemetery Treasurer's report at these meetings & thought that they had plenty of money! The reality is that we spend more on mowing, maintenance & insurance each year than we bring in through plot sales. And once a plot is purchased, we have to maintain it forever! We have a separate CD account as a sort of insurance fund, to be available if the cliff bank slides again or there are other unforeseen expenses. So, if you feel moved at any time to donate to our beautiful cemetery, we will graciously accept.

Gary Rowe Opened the Floor for the Vote for changes to the MICA By-laws

Pursuant with ARTICLE VIII Section C After a discussion of the change proposed, a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those voting members present in favor of the change, will amend the By-laws to formally include the oversight and operation of the Cemetery as a specified purpose of MICA in its Articles of Incorporation, and to establish separate Bylaws governing cemetery operation and maintenance. Gary stated that a voice vote would be conducted. Bud Ayers moved that this change be approved, and this was seconded by Doug Moore. The voice vote was unanimous for this change.

Motion to Open Nominations for MICA Board Members 2023 - 2024

Linda Secord opened the nominations for MICA Board Members. Pursuant to ARTICLE VII Meetings Section B the September General meeting is the start of the fiscal year. Elections take place at the May meeting. The following Board members were nominated to serve as officers for the 2023-24 term as follows: Gary Rose – President, Jessica Lowe – Vice President, Colleen Ebken – Secretary, and Barry Lerich – Treasurer. There were no further nominations from the

floor. Hearing none, Linda Secord called for the nominations to be closed and that action be taken to elect the slate of officers as presented. A motion to approve the slate of Board officers as presented was carried unanimously upon a voice vote.

Linda indicated that there were still three open positions on the board and that any person interested in this position step forward. The open positions are an At Large Member, Membership Committee Chair, and Nominating Committee Chair.

Jessica Lowe Presented “The Grief Experience”.

Jessica opened by stating that what is the “normal” grief experience and why there are no stages. Jessica recently worked British Columbia Bereavement Hotline. This position has uniquely qualified her to share this perspectives to the MICA community. Jessica’s presentation will be posted on <https://www.marrowsstoneisland.org/> and the community was welcomed to contact her with questions. Two links that Jessica recommended to help with the stages were <https://refugeingrief.com/> and the Life Access worksheet on <https://www.bcbh.ca/>

In Our Midst Yvonne Otterness

Carol Gonnella presented a picture and oral presentation about Yvonne Otterness. Carol stated that when I first mentioned to Yvonne about doing an In Our Midst about her, she immediately said “Oh no... I am just an ordinary person.”

Well, I was able to interview Yvonne, and she is anything but ordinary. I would describe her as having an extremely extraordinary life. Just a few adjectives to paint a picture. Adventuresome, independent, compassionate, hard-working, visionary, but most of all... an incredibly loving and understanding person. She wraps her arms around everyone she meets...either figuratively or literally. And because of that she has.... and continues to keep...friends throughout her most adventurous life.

The entire presentation, including pictures, will be posted on <https://www.marrowsstoneisland.org/> for all to enjoy.

MICA Strawberry Festival 2023

Gary encouraged all to save the date of 24 June 2023 for this year’s Strawberry Festival.

Business Meeting adjourned by Linda at 8:40 PM