

**HMC Board Meeting Minutes**  
**May 9, 2020**

**Call to Order & Welcome** - Reed West, HMC Board President. (28 participants on Zoom)

**Introduction of Board Members and Island Manager/Roll Call** – Reed West, Chet Latimer, Kathy Deuster, Merry Kogut, and Ferd Reichlin; Jane Wooster, Island Manager.

Motion was made and approved unanimously to suspend the traditional agenda and adopt one in which membership input would be made after the committee reports.

**Treasurer's Report and Bills of the Association.** Ferd Reichlin, Treasurer. Motion to pay bills was approved unanimously. Motion to move \$17,500 from the general fund back into legal reserves was approved unanimously. Next year in the budget there's a line item to move the remaining \$9,400 back into legal reserves. These funds were used for a major drainage project.

Reed – HMC successfully participated in the Federal Paycheck Protection Program, a stimulus program for small businesses. Thanks to Gary Wanzong and Jane Wooster for their hard work and promptness in applying.

**Minutes** from April 11, 2020, Board Meeting: Merry Kogut, Secretary. Motion to accept was approved unanimously.

**Communications/correspondence:** Merry.

1. A Member emailed the HMC Board asking how the Board can require background checks for Board members if the requirement is not specified in the Bylaws.
2. A Member contacted Member Input and the Board asking whether the Board reached a decision on postponing assessments. The Member followed up with additional emails.
3. A Member contacted Member Input with information regarding a person who allegedly stole a canoe and chainsaw from Camp Gallagher and brought these items to Herron Island. The Member followed up with a second email about the incident.
4. A Member contacted HMC Management requesting a payment plan to pay off her overdue assessments.
5. A Member called the HMC Board Secretary and asked that the Board ask weekenders not to come out to Herron Island. The Secretary informed the Member that a message of that sort had gone out to Members several weeks ago, but she would convey the suggestion that another request be sent to Members.
6. A Member contacted Member Input stating that she thought it offensive that weekenders were asked not to come to the island, and expressing concern that ferry crew members were not wearing PPE (masks and gloves) while working on the ferry and taking tickets from passengers.

7. A Member contacted Member Input asking again that an outhouse be installed at the top of the South Beach Trail.
8. The office received correspondence from Honey Bucket that there will be a rate increase of up to 5%.
9. HMC has received two Board applications – Chet Latimer and Scott Young.
10. A Member contacted Member Input stating that she considered the raccoons to be a constant nuisance and suggesting that the Board consider eradicating them from the island.
11. A Member contacted Member Input asking that the Board delete the leash rule for dogs visiting South Beach so that dogs can run free there.
12. A Member contacted the Island Manager through Member Input asking permission to dig a perc hole on an abandoned Herron Island road.

Reed – Merry doing great job on Member Input responding right away. Sometimes Merry can respond right away, which she does. Other times, the Board meets informally and discusses these issues. Sometimes, not a simple answer – there must be discussion; sometimes impact on budget. Sometimes a Member may not get a response immediately because of complexity.

**Island Manager Report** – Jane Wooster went over her Island Manager’s Report, which was published on the Herron Island website prior to the meeting. Coast Guard’s virtual inspection went very well – thanks to Herron Island ferry crew members. Thanks to others (see Manager’s Report).

#### **Committee Reports:**

- **Maintenance** (Gary Wanzong): No report; Gary is doing a ton of work cutting grass at the water department and clean up of other things there.
- **Parks** (Dale Miller): No Parks Work Day
- **Policies** (Mike Gage): No report
- **Roads** (Dan Marten): No report; grading and ditch cleaning to be scheduled. There will be a lane next to blacktop on the mainland side. Jane continues discussions with county personnel about lining up for the ferry on the mainland.
- **Emergency Preparedness/Mainland Security** (Ken Higgins): No report. Cameras have been installed on the mainland parking area; better system, better view. Thank you to Ken for volunteering his time and getting us a great deal on the equipment.
- **Water** (Frank Harrison): No report
- **Rules** (Mike Fassio): No report
- **Small Boat Dock** (Alan DeGood): Thank you to a team of Members for repairing the dock; the dock will be reinstalled within a few days. HMC seeks a new Chair for this committee. Thank you to Alan DeGood for his years working on the Small Boat Dock.

**Legal Liaison:** There are 19 delinquencies; 11 are with our attorney for action.

## **Old Business:**

- **Covid-19 safety:** Reed – two Member Input contacts – one member wanted us to call people and ask them not to come to Herron Island; another member felt that they weren't welcome to come to Herron Island. We have to somehow walk the middle ground. The message sent six weeks ago didn't say don't come to Herron Island – we were responding to the order from the Governor who asked that people stay at home. Things are changing; the state is starting to open up. When you come to Herron Island, be safe and take precautions. Stay in your vehicle; have a ticket or exact change. Don't engage in unnecessary conversation; consider wearing a mask. Maintain a safe distance and consider wearing a mask in the passenger cabin. Office is open by appointment only. On the island, maintain social distancing between you and people who are not members of your family. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding.
- **No Boosters-sponsored Memorial weekend events:** No organized events
- **2020-2021 Budget and Assessments:** The Finance Committee and Board are close to finalizing the budget, which will come out in the May Beachcomber. Thanks to everyone who put in their hard work.
- **New mainland ferry loading procedure:** Big deal – property owners on the mainland have complained about Members lining up on the road; county said we need to make changes. We will be employing a new system with cars lining up in rows – this will take some learning on the part of crew and Members. Most likely we'll have signage and road marking. The idea is to get some of the traffic off the road and still load the ferry in a way that is similar to what we've been doing for years.
- **Island leash laws for dogs:** We have had some complaints about dogs being off-leash. In response to a Member, the Board will revisit rule for South Beach.
- **Mainland parking lot security:** Ken Higgins installed new cameras; got us a great deal and donated all his time in installing it.
- **Technology:** Please - if anyone out there is knowledgeable about technology, please volunteer your help. We have a patchwork of technology we're using now. We'd like a form of electronic ticketing; upgrade billing systems, such as for the water department; upgrade our email; we'd like to upgrade our website. We have technological need; it requires someone with expertise. We know we can hire someone, but we're sensitive about spending money. Ferd – need a person skilled in technology to perhaps help us find someone to hire. Reed – that would be a good start.

## **New Business:**

- Thank you to the Boosters for the North Beach "Pantry" to benefit the people who live on the island to limit their trips off the island. Really shows community spirit.

- Kathy – reminder that the Honeybucket on the mainland gets locked at night and doesn't get unlocked until the first ferry in the morning. If you see tansy, please pull it.

**Boosters Announcement** – Robin Kelly, Boosters President: The Pantry at North Beach is going really well. Because a lot of people were coming to the island, she and Leslie put all the food back in the bins and added signs to the effect to please respect that the pantry has been set up on the island to help people who are staying on the island staying in place. Thanks to Dana Clark for going down every single day to keep the pantry going; everyone has been really respectful. Reed – great service to those people who are trying to stay in place on the island. Robin – a lot of people have been donating, and also taking what they need.

**Beachcomber:** Deadline is Wednesday, May 13, 2020

**Executive Session:** None

### **Membership Input:**

- Sherri A. – Have we scheduled the extra Honey Buckets for the summer? Jane, yes. Re: Stay-at-Home – a lot of people are staying on the island rather than at home. Reed – a lot of people staying on the island; using ferry less frequently. That's a reaction we hoped would happen.
- Sue B. – came to the island twice and went home; needed to do maintenance, but is not going to stay there. Reed – obviously you have the right to access your property; we just hope you practice good safety; we're just trying to remind people it's not business as usual.
- Carolyn A – glad that we're going to make the lining-up procedure official. It's been kind of confusing. Has the change been discussed with the neighbors? Jane – has been working directly with traffic engineers who are vehement that something has to change. Also working with County Council member Derek Young, who has been very helpful. County would let us use the county park land if we grade it and get the gravel down; hope to be able to do this soon. Not in direct discussion with neighbors. We need to make this work. People need to stay in cars and not block the roadway. County wanted to post "no parking or standing" signs on the road and we objected to that. We also asked them to consider a traffic light on the road. This affects everyone. We're working through it and there will be more communication as we work through it. Carolyn – appreciate that we're working through it. If we're making this investment, it'd be nice to know that neighbors are ok with it. Jane – no blacktop; some neighbors will be unhappy no matter what. Reed – the big win was getting the county to let us use their land close to the water. Lane will just be gravel and won't affect the environment. We hope to make enough progress that the county will be satisfied. Carolyn – the fact that we've had the ferry since 1958, does that give us a break? Jane – the county has traffic laws and they need to be enforced. Robin – maybe we can discourage people from having two lines of cars parked in the parking lot, so we'd have more room to line up cars waiting for the ferry?
- Betty and Larry E. - have had several incidents of theft on the island. Doesn't know if the sheriff ever came and did something about it. Can we do something about that, such as a neighborhood watch? Never had a problem before. Jane – first thing you have to do is call

the sheriff. HMC is not a governmental agency so there is nothing HMC can do. Call the Sheriff and make a report. Record of it by the island? Can we at least keep a record of it on the island? Jane – yes, can keep a record in the office. During COVID property crimes are not being investigated. The guy involved in the canoe/chainsaw theft went to jail. All you can do is call the Sheriff and get a report number. Robin K – live on the “one-way” – not on the beach side. It’s a bit hard when I know that my neighbors are gone and I hear strange noises. Betty – it may be good for our knowledge that there are a lot of thefts on the island. Carolyn A – I personally would like to know that information. It makes all of us more vigilance. Should at least be posted on Facebook. Robin K – using case of guy who stole the canoe; what’s wrong with a group of men holding someone until someone comes for them. Jane – it could be a liability for the people holding him. I’d encourage you not to hold people. Reed – block watch – has been popular in neighborhoods. Betty – don’t think it’s people coming in on the ferry. Sue – have had block watch. What sheriff wants you to do is let them know. Dave H – we’ve lived in rural areas our whole life. The idea of a block watch is really good.

- Sherri A – future meetings? Even if we meet in person, can we continue to meet by Zoom? There is going to be a risk for a long time. Reed – yes, we’ve talked about it. Anticipate the June meeting will most likely be on Zoom. It’ll be great when we go back to in-person meetings if we can continue to use Zoom. We want to try and engage people any way we can.
- Scott Y – Citizens arrest – check out the local laws on that. In Arkansas you can catch someone if you witness a violent felony. Otherwise it may be false imprisonment. There’s no problem with confronting or taking photographs; I’d hate to see someone getting hurt over property.
- Carolyn A – a couple of meetings ago I heard about having a locking mailbox on the island side for guest passes. Reed – this has been discussed a lot with the Board. On hold until Spring because of COVID – crew is already stressed and we don’t want to start a new procedure. Many of us think this has merit. Will revisit next spring before it gets too busy.

**Adjournment:** Thanks to everyone for meeting on Zoom; it allows more people to listen in and participate. We look forward to hearing from you again. Pay attention to the Beachcomber and emails.

Meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.