

Island Manager Report  
May 13, 2017

**Administration:**

**Island Manager Transition:** On April 29, the Board met and interviewed two candidates for the position of Island Manager. Monique Pizzitola, who has extensive background in banking, finance and management, was selected to be the third Island Manager in HMC history. The Island Manager is contracted for 999 hours annually, and is generally in the office Tuesdays and Thursdays. Claudia Ellsworth will retire May 25<sup>th</sup> after 7 and a half years with HMC.

**Replacement Auditor and Accountant:** We have made some headway in contacting firms, but do not yet have an estimate or a recommendation. The A-133 audit is required when a certain amount of federal funds is used in one year, and requires special certification. Very likely, that audit should be conducted by a separate, qualified firm, from the one that would conduct the annual audit.

**Sale of HMC Lots:** We now have the quit claim deed to the property located as 1203/1205 West Yew Blvd. The Board will discuss the process for this sale in Executive Session, and we can proceed with the sale. We also have a verbal offer on two other lots.

**Reserve Studies:** Both reserve studies – HMC Water and HMC in general have been completed and are posted on the front page of the website. A summary report from each study will accompany the budget ballot.

**Insurance Policy Renewals:** Once again, thanks to our positive claims history (no claims) and continued infrastructure improvements, our policy premiums have actually declined...from \$64,294 to \$64,106. Docks and Piers premium declined \$382.00, very likely due to the extensive maintenance on the docks and ramps last year. The auto premium increased slightly, probably because we have added drivers to the list, and due to the age of the dust truck.

**Water Operations:** Charles Smith will report.

Our small claims court filing against Cascade MobileMix was successful, in that they agreed to pay the full replacement cost of the hydrant without going to court.

**Water Committee Report:** Charles Smith will report.

**Fire Department Liaison:** No report.

**Emergency Preparedness:** Mike Shettlesworth is unavailable.

**Parks:**

The docks should be back in the water today. Efforts continue to get the right materials for the second project, maintaining the landscaping at North Beach. This project will require the use of heavy equipment.

**Roads: Committee Report.**

Jack Wells will report on the repair activities of the Roads Committee, regarding future plans. Repairs have been made to the retaining wall at the corner of South Herron and East Madrona, and at the corner of Maple and Yew. East/West Madrona remains to be completed. The tree canopy that blocked dump trucks on East Herron has also been removed, and gravel was added in that area to improve the road.

Dick Mowry completed some grading on the island, and also in the mainland parking lot. Steve Kramer has returned and will be able to assist with some of the roads work.

We heard from Pen Light in November that their tree trimming crews would be on the island within eight months, which places it at about July.

Drivers can help with road maintenance by NOT driving into potholes, which has the effect of opening them up again.

**Rules:** A member who was fined for a Rules violation filed a small claims action against HMC, asking to be reimbursed for the fine. HMC made an appearance at the small claims mediation and refused to undermine the work of the Rules Committee by reducing this fine. The matter is scheduled for District Court July 10.

### **Herron Island Ferry:**

**Dock Inspection:** We will have, on Monday, the final report on the dock inspection of the mainland terminal. This inspection is required to be conducted every two years under our Pierce County lease of the roadway. The Board has chosen to have both terminal inspected every four years. The next inspection of both sides will be 2019.

**Dolphin Replacement Project:** The contractor, American Construction, is in the process of ordering materials, some of which will need to be fabricated in China and take several months. Actual construction is slated for September/October.

**Ferry Crew:** Joe Taylor, one of our standby captains, has been hired as Senior Captain, and many of you have met him. Because we were in the process of hiring a second captain and were short of standbys, Joe put in some extra days to keep the boat in service. This week he has been training a new weekend captain, Kathy Craig. We have another candidate for standby captain who will begin training on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Robbie Westby, whom Members enjoyed, has secured a permanent job and left our employment. Our standbys are currently Steve Wiggins (he will do his regular training on Wednesday) and Eric Helpenstell.

We will also be adding to our standby deck hand roster and are currently recruiting. Kevin Kircher remains on extended sick leave, and Charlie Folk is filling in for him.

In years past (when I started with HMC), we had two HMC members who worked both as standby deck hand and standby captain, and a third who lived in Grapeview, worked both positions, and came down to the island on his boat when he was needed to work. Since those three quit or retired, we have been in a continual process of recruiting and hiring captains and deck hands. There are many reasons for this, but it is not a sustainable system to guarantee uninterrupted service to Members.

The Board has emphasized that the Ferry Access Policy is to be fairly and evenhandedly applied to Members. This has caught some folks without current stickers. Remember that if Herron Island is to be a private community there has to be a way to verify that vehicles and passengers actually have a right to cross to the island. I'm sorry to report that some Members or guests have been verbally abusive to the deck hands when they are asked to pay the guest rate if their stickers are incorrect or out of date.

**Transportation Committee:** No report.

**Technology:** No report.

**Legal Liaison:** We currently have 8 delinquencies, four of which are with the attorney for collections. Delinquency rate 2.0%. Currently, HMC has 378 Assessable Units and 397 Water customers.