

Opportunity Grosse Ile
Minutes
Monday, December 21, 2009

MEETING called to order at 7:08 pm. Island Kiddie Kampus.

PRESENT Andrew Johnson, Ron Baker, Greg Goyert, Ann Loftus, Armando Sardanopoli, Shirley Mohny, Ernie Horvath, Ron Janowski, Warren McLeod, Chad Novak, Greg Kish, Craig Pilkington, Susie Harrison

MINUTES from November 30, 2009 with changes to be made. Venue for training session as presented by Ernie Horvath not in Southfield but in Houston and Philadelphia.

Shirley Mohny spoke and gave us the history of Island Kiddie Kampus in business now for 32 years. With three locations it is a respected child development entity.

BY LAWS are to be finalized.

ISLAND ACTIVITIES New flyer invitations for an Enchanted Evening are forthcoming showing correct telephone numbers. Also numbered tickets coming. With a certain number to be given to each committee member for sale. Restaurants need to be formally contacted to see what their donations will be for the January 30th event. This will not be a sit down affair. Our committee will be doing the set up and clean up.

No bank account has been set up at this time, therefore checks to be given to Ron Baker to be held until formal State acceptance is received.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE – Ann Loftus made a strong suggestion that a membership committee be in order to assist in contacting members and to man the welcoming table at OPPGI Enchanted Evening event.

Ron Janowski asked for the verbage necessary when asked what OPPGI is all about. What does the January event hope to accomplish? We are trying to raise awareness of Grosse Ile, increase student enrollment, stop the decline, increase citizen personal wealth in their home investments, and as such this committee of concerned citizens was formed. The Welcome Home! Center will give us a

physical presence for use by the citizens and to welcome new people to our home.

Greg Goyert brought us up to date on the school situation. The district has lost on average 50 students a year since 2006 taking a roughly \$450,000 revenue hit each year. Seven teachers have been laid off, two administrators and several custodians last year and the pink slipping of 27 teachers, 23 aides and three secretaries in December. That the system is \$1.9 million down and there may be more cuts to come. There have been 23 applicants for the superintendent of schools position. 2010 is a contract year with 85% of the costs going to personnel. Craig Pilkington stressed the serious of the situation.

BANK ACCOUNT will be setting up a bank account. The receipt of our first check in the form of a donation of \$100 from Dena Dardzinski. Ron Baker to decide which banking institution will be used. It was moved and seconded that OPPGI has given authorization to create deposit ability off of our website. And that we need to be tax deductible.

Ron Baker also reported that in the next three weeks OPPGI will have:

- Newsletter online – once a month
- Membership section online
- Page set up for families and individual articles of interest

That we need email addresses – to contact churches, etc. and each of us to contact ten grass roots individuals for same. FYI Grosse Ile has 74, 501c3's registered with the State.

For the Business Section of the website:

- Businesses will be listed
- Feature stories on businesses
- Revenue to be generated by ads, events & sponsors
- Rotating ads and coupons, using Flash
- Off island businesses can buy in

And that the focus should be featuring Community organizations first.

The Township plans to remove business information from its website and has suggested that OPPGI list them on its website. OPPGI has always planned to list Island businesses and off-island businesses / sponsors.

Brian Loftus, Township Supervisor, has invited OPPGI to the next Board of Trustees meeting January 11, 2010 to make a presentation. OPPGI officers will meet prior to the presentation to discuss speaking order and content.

Ron Baker also reported that Dorothy Bourdet, free lance writer for the *Detroit News* is featuring an article on OPPGI and one family that has moved here subsequent to the island wide Open House held by island Realtors last April and what brought them here to live. To be published Saturday, December 26th community edition.

Greg Goyert read a letter that he is sending to Lena at the *Ile Camera* which is hopefully to be published in the Friday, December 25th edition.

Warren McLeod inquired about creating a DVD on Grosse Ile.

Greg Kish, head of GIYRA, suggested that a liaison be appointed to keep annual changes up to date whenever there is a change in the different youth organization committee member heads.

Ernie Horvath and his OUT OF THE BOX research spoke to us concerning the importance of fostering the creative individual and genius process. That our goal should be to make Grosse Ile #1 in the State.

OLD BUSINESS – Warren McLeod stressed the importance in securing civic liability insurance and a bond for the treasurer. It was suggested that Jim Schiesel, Ron Baker and Jay Frucci meet to determine the insurance carrier.

WELCOME HOME! CENTER – Ron Janowski pointed out the need for a Certificate of Occupancy from the Township once the Welcome Home! Center is functional. That the \$150.00 fee will be waived for our group on this space. That the Zoning Board will need to approve our group for occupancy. Wayne County Health Dept. approval and the fire chief to approve plumbing, electrical and mechanical systems. Also the need to show number of parking spaces available as well as a plot plan and floor plan for approval.

And as an aside, it would be suggest that all applications for such be on the Grosse Ile Township website for downloading since there were individuals at the township who were having a hard time finding particular forms that need to be filled out to make applications.

No further business to discuss **ADJOURNMENT** at 9:27 pm.

NEXT MEETING – JANUARY 4, 2010 - Island Kiddie Kampus at 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted

Susie Harrison

Secretary