

**Board of Directors  
Opportunity Grosse Ile, Inc.  
Minutes  
November 17, 2009**

**MEETING** called to order at 7:07 pm – East River Board of Education

**PRESENT** Andrew Johnson, Ron Baker, Dena Dardzinski, Ann Loftus, Greg Goyert, John Gatti, Craig Pilkington, Jay Frucci, Ernie Horvath, Ron Janowski, Irene Will, Shirley Mohny, Susie Harrison

**MINUTES** from the November 2, 2009 approved and seconded

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES** meeting. This was our first official meeting.

**WEBSITE** Ron Baker constantly adding to and improving this beautiful site. Within 7 days a Newsletter will be incorporated into the site and Project Management Tools template with a sample Excel plan. Go into the website to download the sample.

Ron also presented a format with the main story on the right of the front page with newswire releases to include achievements by Island people. And on the left contributed stories.

Ron also reported on a Green Plan and on the Pure Michigan Seminar that he attended.

**GOVERNANCE & COMPLIANCE** Jay Frucci reported that the Articles of Incorporation and decisions have been completed. The final version of the ByLaws to be adopted were passed out. They now are to be filed with the IRS then 501c3 status will be approved pending further discussions elaborated on below.

John Gatti reported that Form 1023 is required with a 3 year projected budget prior to filing which has been accomplished.

For our consideration that our organization would be well served to have a Board of Directors with 20 individuals with participation from the entities represented in a 1/3, 1/3, 1/3 concept. And a 2/3 majority vote on removal of an individual. That “classes” have been removed. A hard copy and email from John to be reviewed at the next meeting. He is asking for final comments and everyone needs to have input. That the majority vote of the members will be the determiner.

Recommended mandatory indemnification then liability insurance to cover members of the group.

Also the fact that we need a Treasurer. Several individuals have been approached but no one has accepted as of this date.

ISLAND ACTIVITIES SUBCOMMITTEES Ann Loftus reported that the list and pertinent information on each participant is growing to incorporate business owner names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses and websites to become part of our site. That she had introduced herself to the majority of businesses on Macomb St., personally, in an effort to put a name with a face and introduce them to what we are about and to inform them about the Welcome Center. That she had formulated a letter to each of them with contact information.

And introducing them to our fundraiser to be held January 30th at the Pilot House. An Enchanted Evening with invitation designed by Ron Baker. Pricing to be decided. Need to check the Pilot House capacity. Invitations to go out in the mail by January 4th, 2009. To send to representatives of government, off island yacht clubs to name a few.

Dena Dardzinski and Ron Baker met with B&B Construction who owns a large parcel of land that would serve Grosse Ile well in building lesser priced homes to attract younger families. That the developer has plans which would require rezoning modifications to be placed before the Township Boards.

Jay Frucci commented on the Planning Commission, Master Plan and the Macomb St. Master Plan which is due to be updated. That we should be proactive to present suggestions and suggested having 2 people representing our organization speak with public comments.

Craig Pilkington also felt that we need a common vision and suggested that we look at how Plymouth and Novi have achieved their growth. And that OPPGI would be the ombudsman to act as a go-between on well articulated and presented issues.

Ron Janowski felt that we needed to focus more on where we are going and that money for schools should be our main issue. And the need to focus on contacting off island people to make them aware of what we have to offer.

Ernie Horvath suggested the need for consistent policies and that we need to focus on helping others get thru the system.

**FUNDING** The need to populate a funding committee and identify the model we will use to secure revenue sources. That would recruit donors and sponsors. Also a membership fee in OPPGI and paid advertising in the website. In order to sell

items such as T shirts, golf polo shirts, coffee mugs, even a Grosse Ile Historical book, we will need a Federal Tax ID#.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE** Ron Baker has sent out, through a National Public Relations organization, 9701 emails which include *Crain's Detroit*, *Time Magazine*, *Detroit News* and Google to name just a few, promoting Grosse Ile.

**WELCOMING CENTER** Dena Dardzinski invited us to come view the new Center located in Victorian Commons on the east side of the square following the meeting. That our free rent and utilities are to be paid for by the owner of the unit. That painting and decorating will follow and that it would be ideal to have such up and open the night of December 4th for Island Glow welcoming Santa Claus.

**ADJOURNMENT** at 8:40 pm.

**NEXT MEETING MONDAY NOVEMBER 30 at 8:00 PM – EAST RIVER ADMIN BUILDING BOARD ROOM.**