

Opportunity Grosse Ile
Monday, March 22, 2010
Grosse Ile High School

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm

Present Andrew Johnson, Ron Baker, Dena Dardzinski, Jim Schiesel, Greg Goyert, Greg Kish, Mark McPherson, Shirley Mohny, Irene Will, Ann Loftus, Chad Novak, Ron Janowski, Craig Pilkington, Susie Harrison, Greg Karmazin, Brian Loftus, Peter Kantz, Derek Thiel,

Julie, Cortis, Pat Nielsen, Tammy Taylor, Gary Miles, Tom Penney

Minutes from February 22, 2010 approved

Treasurer's Report – Jim Schiesel reported a balance of \$3,100 – Monies taken in \$7,400 and out \$4,200. Primarily from Enchanted Evening. A new Disbursal Approval Process has and is being formulated to streamline the bill approval and paying procedure. Questions as to how many outstanding debts from the Enc. Evening are yet to be paid.

Multi Sports Event presentation by township trustee Peter Kantz. To be held May 22 & 23, 2010 as a way to market the airport. A Duatholon Event (run, bike, run) from 8-11 on Sat. May 22. 12 ½ mile course around the island. Asking for 50 helpers with this event. Peter gave us profiles of the participants in these events and the statistics were very interesting. To be run and managed by a company by the name of "Three Disciplines". Sponsors needed.

During this weekend a celebration of National Safe Boating week will be commemorated by a Boat Show in Hangar #1. 40,000 sq.' of display area – from 11-7 on Saturday and 11-5 on Sunday.

This will also be the same weekend as the Yankee Air Force celebration at the airport.

And talk of a motorcycle rally (could be up to 1,000 cycles).
Savvy Advertising printing up T-shirts
Need Realtors and booth participants.

Check the Airport website. Also email Peter Kantz at Peterkantz@sbcglobal.net.

National Registry of Historic Places presented by Julie Cortis of the Pilot House. Buildings in the proposed District are the Grosse Ile Tennis Center, Tin Hangar (EPA Owned), EPA Research Station Bldgs 21-23, Hangar 2, Battery Shop, Hangar 1 and the Grosse Ile Pilot House. And it would be best to obtain the designation as a district.

Julie's main focus is her Grosse Ile Pilot House structure/ bed and breakfast and catering/banquet hall business. Called a NASGI District. The Pilot House has the green light to move forward on a stand-alone basis, but would love to see the Twp. benefit from the entire district being recognized. Would involve historical markers. How to stay on track? Who to do the necessary research, and documentation? Tammy Taylor from the Historical Society was on hand to lend her expertise. That photos need to be taken. Nancy Karmazin did research 15 years ago and that body of work can be tapped into.

Kudos to the Cortis family Teen Nightclub events.

Presentation by Tom Penney – J. V. Penney Sports – proposed lithograph depicting Grosse Ile Highlights. Art work from photos. 350 prints could be sold in the \$10.00 to \$30.00 price range as a fund raiser. Ed LaPere artist. Cost \$3,500 for the original 8" x 25" art work which could be auctioned off. 50% down payment after a sketch is presented to OPPGI for approval prior to completion. Balance due when prints are delivered.

OPPGI Website – Ron Baker – update on the Welcome Center. A Newsletter to be published on the site the next day – 23rd of March. A Business Section has been added. And the announcement of the Times Square Boutique grand opening was published. Mark McPherson noted that there have been 7 of his articles already on the site.

Social Media Policy – Andrew Johnson stressed the need for a policy and a disclaimer on any articles that might be of an opinionated commentary. What is our mission? We must be apolitical. That we are the cheerleaders and essentially the arm of a Chamber of Commerce. And we might run the risk of presenting anything of a debatable nature.

Wishes – a computer controlled sign similar to the one constructed by the City of Wyandotte on Fort and Eureka. And that possibly a grant could be obtained to build same here on Grosse Ile. Art Koester's name came up in regard to a new sign installation.

OPPGI promotional material – Downriver Profile Magazine as a possible venue to publish our group's mission.

OPPGI membership – thanks to the Enchanted Evening we now have over 200 members. Membership forms will also be provided at the Welcome Home Center.

Project Plan for all activities – Ron Baker devising a form that will be a checklist to follow to ensure an even flow of duties when an event is planned. All requests for monies to be in writing. All receipts to be turned in. All donations to be acknowledged in writing and a donor sheet prepared.

Pirate weekend – Chad Novak reported on the proposed Official Pirate Weekend events. Friday, July 30 at 6:30 to be a "Pirate Parade" for the kids and their families down Macomb Street. Mark McPherson could be Captain Jack Sparrow.

Then Saturday July 31st the Pirate ball adults only event at the Olds Mansion on Elba Island presented by proclamation. \$50.00 per ticket. Fireworks display, best costume, treasure/scavenger hunt around the island. Tall ship??

The need for private donors to help fund the event; booths at the festival to display clubs and businesses (\$30.00 per table).

IRS Status – Forms still be sent in making us a 501c organization. John Gatti and Jay Frucci to handle.

Advertising in the website to generate monies. Businesses and organizations.

Grant application - Also the need to apply for grants. U of M and HFCC do give grant writing classes. Dena Dardzinski said that she has utilized grant application skills in the past with the school system and would work along with anyone who would wish to get involved in working on such. Irene Will volunteered and possibly asking Nancy Martinelli to assist Dena.

Greg Karmazin said that he knows a parent who writes for grants. Again we need clarification as to our organization tax status.

Brian Loftus will forward any information the Township has on grants to us. The name Sue Pilon Hennessey of the Downriver Community Conference came up in conjunction with grant application, too.

Craig Pilkington – suggested we view the City of Wyandotte website for ideas as well as the city of Birmingham website. Bhamgov.org.

New families coming to Grosse Ile – Dena Dardzinski, Andrew and Yvette Johnson and Ron Baker went out of their way to graciously introduce an Indian Village couple to looking on Grosse Ile. The Welcome Center came into use as well as dinner at Lloyd's with the Johnson family. Dena spent much time, too, bringing the family up to date on all aspects of the school system. The couple is working with Fred Ladd, an Indian Village Realtor known to this writer who has come down to show our island.

Chinese exchange students – Dena Dardzinski reported on the fact 15 Chinese senior high school students will be coming to Grosse Ile. There have been 25 students that applied to do so. The first group to come July 1st, 2010. Laura Wayne is their spokesperson. Host families needed. See Dena or Diane Sanford on this great exchange.

Pot Shots dinner – Irene Will reported on the upcoming event which was to be held March 23rd, at Sharkey's.

Regional Southeastern Michigan Heritage Tourism seminar – Held Thursday, March 18th at the Flat Rock Community Center. Attended by Ron Baker, Dena Dardzinski, Mark McPherson, Tammy Taylor and Susie Harrison. Many fine presentations from the City of Detroit, Fort Wayne, historical family backgrounds important to this area. Put on by Karen Risko it was a very worthwhile event.

Welcome Center Grand Opening – in conjunction with an island-wide Realtor Open House, Sunday April 25th from 12:00 to 4:00 similar to the one held last year at the same time. Plans underway.

FYI – Grosse Ile Golf and Country Club – Greg Goyert reported that the club is now open for Saturday and Sunday golf, weekend restaurant availability. Budget renovations have kept the club open.

Adjournment at 9:10 pm – to the Welcome Home Center.

Next Meeting – Monday, April 12th – 7:00 pm at the high school.

Respectfully submitted
Susie Harrison
Secretary