

# **FIPPOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

**Saturday, July 9, 2022**

**10:00 am**

**Whyte Hall**

**Directors Present:** Allan Baum, Alan Brodherson, Gary Clinton, Chris Mai, Jay Pagano, Henry Robin, Russell Saray, Eric Sawyer, Ed Schulhafer, Jim Vandernoth.

**Directors on the phone:** Greg Henniger, Nathan Pinsley, Leland Rechis, Matt Tague

**Directors Absent:** Charles Montorio-Archer

**Also Present:** Joe Micheels (Facilities Manager), Dennis Murphy (Harbor Manager), Claudia Tropp (Nominations Chairperson)

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 am

Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2022 meeting.

Motion was unanimously approved.

## **FIPPOA TOPICS**

### **Fall 2022 FIPPOA Election**

- Henry Robin introduced Claudia Tropp, who has coordinated the nominations process.
- All Executive Committee positions are up this year, as are four Director slots, currently held by Alan Brodherson, Greg Henniger, Henry Robin, and Jim Vandernoth.
- Claudia reported that Henry Robin, Allan Baum, and Eric Sawyer are running for reelection to the Executive Committee; Gary Clinton will complete his one-year term as Secretary, and that Alan Brodherson and Russell Saray have informed Claudia of their intention to run for Secretary.
- Alan Brodherson, Greg Henniger and Henry Robin have expressed their intention to run for re-election to the Board; Jim Vandernoth has informed Claudia that he will not run for re-election to the Board.
- Henry expressed FIPPOA's gratitude to Jim, noting his dedication, his long-time stewardship and success as Chair of the Harbor Committee. Henry noted a significant portion of the administrative aspects of the Harbor Committee have shifted to Karen McCutcheon as Community Manager, and that Jim has very generously offered to continue with the oversight of tables and banners in the harbor.
- Claudia informed the Board that three FIPPOA members not currently on the Board had expressed interest in running and had discussions with her. However, in the past few days two of these potential candidates decided not to run due to work commitments,
- Claudia informed the Board that Andrew Kirtzman, a long-term Pines homeowner and FIPPOA member wishes to run for a Board position. Andrew is a journalist, an author, and is the owner of The Madison.

- The Board noted the drop in the number of individuals who have expressed an interest in running, compared to the past two election. Discussion focused on the earlier timing of the candidacy process (which was meant to both meet the 45-day rule between the candidate selection process and the Fall Membership Meeting, and to allow for a longer time in which to inform the electorate via a Candidates Forum).
- Claudia reported that there were no inquiries from interested parties about incumbents running, no inquiries from women, and no inquiries from People of Color.
- Upon recommendation of Gary, Claudia and Henry, with only one contested election, there will not be a Candidates Forum.
- Henry noted that a number of unsuccessful candidates in prior Board elections have gone on to serve as members of FIPPOA Task Forces, Committees, and as volunteers.
- Motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the slate of candidates.

## **Membership**

Membership Committee Co-Chairs Chris Mai and Matt Tague reported the following:

- Membership is up by 7% as compared to last year: 472 Regular (voting) Members and 84 Associate Members, for a total of 556 members.
- Membership revenue stands at \$120,425, which is 13% over the year's goal of \$105,000.
- Chris and Matt reported their intention to increase FIPPOA's use of technology in all areas of operation.
- Eric Sawyer noted that there are many ways in which our financial system and personnel systems can be updated and noted an ongoing effort with The A Team to determine how to update and integrate FIPPOA's business systems.

- Chris noted that he and Matt are working with Coop management so that FIPPOA has a clearer system of numbering Coop properties within our data base,
- They noted that the map stanchion in the Harbor will be updated this week.
- Discussion followed on ways by which both Regular and Associate Memberships might be made more desirable, including Pines Party discounts, a contractors fair, and more outreach via digital platforms.

## **Wagon Rack Report**

Gary Clinton reported the following:

- There are approximately 250 parking spaces in the wagon rack. In two separate sweeps in May, he and Bob McGarity placed notices on approximately 180 wagons without 2022 stickers, This is a about 50 lower number than in recent years, perhaps as a result of 2022 stickers having been received in the mail. The reminders noted that wagons without 2022 stickers were subject to removal beginning on June 21.
- Gary and Chris Mai placed approximately 50 reminders on what appeared to be abandoned locks and chains, noting the intent to begin removing such chains and locks beginning on June 21.
- On June 21, we removed 48 abandoned locks, and stored them for disposal in the Fall. In total, we have cleared the Wagon Rack of 83 abandoned locks/chains in the past two years.
- On July 6 Gary and Bob removed 14 wagons without 2022 stickers. (Two of the 14 did not have house numbers on them). We also removed 4 wagons that were clearly derelict and abandoned, with the intent pf trashing them. All removed wagons were brought to Whyte Hall

## **PINES FOUNDATION TOPICS**

### **Trailblazers Park**

- Gary Clinton reported that the dedication of Trailblazers Park at noon on Saturday, June 16 is on schedule.
- Construction of the framework and decking is nearing completion. The dry well has been placed beneath the desk, the fountain mosaic is in process, the flags are expected from the manufacturer shortly, and the lighting is designed and in process of installation.
- At the Board's direction, the Task Force explored public relations firms, and subsequently hired a firm named Vidoun. Gary reported that Vidoun is doing a fine job, bringing Trailblazers Park to the attention of the media via a very sophisticated media kit. This media kit will also serve as the basis for the Trailblazers Park portion of the FIPPOA website.
- Gary noted that Vidoun was particularly impressed by the FIPPOA style guide, which they felt was one of the best of its kind. Gary congratulated Chris Mai for his management of the style guide.
- Henry and Gary encouraged the Board to attend the Dedication and the Reception.

## **Pines Party**

- Allan Baum reported that due to the presence of Piping Plovers in the vicinity, FINS has closed the cut from Sail Walk to the Beach, effective yesterday, and banned beach driving to the east of Nautilus Walk. As a result, the Pines Party must be held on the western part of the Pines beach, which is unfortunately narrower than the eastern part.
- The Pines Party production team is evaluating the situation and will redesign the event taking into account the narrower beach.
- Ticket sales have been halted at 2750, with the possibility of an increase as design allows.
- As reported at the June meeting, the financials remain strong, with ticket, cabana, journal and auction sales performing at or beyond expectation.

## **Juneteenth Weekend**

Henry reported that the events of the Juneteenth Weekend were well-attended. Charles Montorio-Archer will give a report at the August meeting.

## **Tag Sale**

Nate Pinsley reported that the June 4 Tag Sale was a success:

- Over \$6,000 was raised, to be divided between Congregation B'nai Olam, the Pines Catholic congregation, and FIPPOA.
- The event brought together homeowners, renters, and children.
- Looking ahead, it might be beneficial to having the sale earlier in the season, coordinating it with the annual Spring Cleanup, with

dumpsters available. An on-line person-to-person exchange of bulky items might be useful in repurposing large items,

## **AIDS Memorial**

- Jay Pagano reviewed the history of the AIDS Memorial project, emphasizing the various paths the Task Force has followed in seeking a location for the Memorial: the opposition of some neighbors to its placement on National Park Service-owned property near homes; the initial efforts to attempt to receive Federal approval through the US Congress; the lack of forward motion from Senator Gillibrand's office; and the subsequent possibility of approval at an NPS level of the Memorial on FINS land, provided the Memorial meets various standards related to significance, material, ecology, archaeology, impact, and design review.
- Jay pointed out that due to the impact of a design competition and design review on scheduling, the Task Force moved forward with a design concept proposed by architect Charles Renfro.
- Charles' design places the Memorial in an existing shallow bowl of sand behind the front dune, at the beach entrance ramp to the west of the Carrington House. It is wheelchair accessible and designed to accommodate a small number of people at a time.
- At a meeting with FINS officials yesterday, Jay and Charles Renfro presented the plan described above. Although receiving favorable comments on the design from the FINS representatives, Jay and Charles were informed that any site within the Carrington Tract was very unlikely to be approved by FINS, in part because FINS has determined that any use of the tract must be related to Frank Carrington and his era, and in part due to potential impact on the Piping Plovers.

- A professional adviser to Jay, himself involved with NPS approval processes, has told Jay that an effort to receive FINS and related governmental approval could be a three- to five-year process, with no guarantee of success.
- Jay stated that the Task Force will be reviewing its options.

## **JOINT FIPPOA / PINES FOUNDATION TOPICS**

### **Branding**

Chris Mai reported that we are still rolling out various aspects of FIPPOA's branding project. Of particular note:

- A 3-fold pamphlet for Whyte Hall use, covering eligibility, costs, insurance, etc.
- New signs on the access steps to the beach, reflective, highly visible, durable, valuable for emergency access, and mutual-aid responders.
- Chris and Russell Saray showed samples of new street signs that will be proposed to the Board, meant to identify all walks at all corners from all sides. These and related lighting will be in accordance with standards related to visibility and light pollution and, like the signs on beach access points, are valuable for emergency access and mutual aid responders.
- FIPPOA branding, as a means of signaling FIPPOA's engagement, will also be used on signs at the harbor, post office, freight dock, mobility carts, trash cans, and apparel.
- Chris noted that the Board will be asked to approve a significant expenditure to cover this project.
- Questions were raised about other possible funding sources: the Town of Brookhaven and Fire Island Pines Fire Commissioners. These will be explored.



## **The Invasion**

Henry expressed his thanks to numerous individuals who provided assistance in planning, setting up, and managing the Invasion: Thom Hansen (Panzi), Randy Wilson, John Wood, PJ McAteer, Joe Micheels, Karen McCutcheon, Chris Lovito, Allan Baum, Nate Pinsley, and Ryan Espinosa and Colin Joyner from Denizen for the use of their boat. Special thank you to Deutsche Bank for coming on as our first sponsor for the Invasion.

## **Office Staffing**

- Henry was very happy to report that the FIPPOA Office is now fully-staffed, with the hiring of Gabriela Casella-Nicosia as office administrator.
- The A-Team is doing quite well managing the finances, and is assisting with the reimagining of FIPPOA's business practices.

## **Other Business**

Northwell Health will be providing a limited number of vaccinations in the Pines and the Grove. Details will be sent to the FIPPOA listserv as soon as they are received.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.