



Ph: 604-796-2545 1-866-796-2545

www.harrisonholidaypark.com

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TO THE MEMBERS OF HHPA

It has been brought to the attention of the board that a very accusatory, malicious, and defamatory letter has been circulated among the membership. Over the past five months, this board has written dozens of letters to individuals to both explain and/or share information in an effort to stem the flow of gossip and misinformation or in some cases, to simply shed light on what we have perceived as a misunderstanding.

A few of the items in the letter have already been addressed publicly, by the board. Sadly, we are left to assume that these items are being brought up again for the purpose of stirring discontent and we have chosen not to directly engage any further. For all of you wishing to move forward, we would suggest that you do the same.

There are a few items that we will address. It is our hope when provided with accurate information, you will not find yourselves drawn into ongoing malicious gossip.

Regarding the Emergency Meeting

In that letter there are claims against some board members of collusion.

Any insinuation that the Emergency Meeting held on September 12 was surreptitious (or "shady") in nature, is without basis. It is pure conjecture, which does not line up with the facts.

After the AGM, Saturday, September 11th, the new board met. Six out of seven board members were still present when it was brought up that we needed to make a decision prior to Monday morning regarding litigation and mounting lawyer fees. Additional action incurring charges, were imminent, and this situation needed to be addressed immediately. As members that attended the AGM would be aware, the budget had already been significantly exceeded and there was no mandate from the membership to continue with the litigation and spending. Without membership support, for the board not to act, would have been a failure of duty.

When the Emergency Meeting was called, it was believed that everyone would be available to attend. The full board was staying onsite that weekend and no one present at the meeting gave any indication that they would be unavailable, at any time, between then and Monday morning. Of course, there was the option for any board member that did go off site, to attend by phone. It was an important meeting. Once it became apparent that we would be having the meeting with four out of seven board members, we were unanimous in our decision to move forward with temporary measures only (a pause) and leave the final decision for a later date, when missing board members could be included in the debate, and vote, as to how to move forward.

A final vote on the matter was completed after a full board debate and is recorded in the October 2021 meeting minutes.

Regarding the 'Clearing of Files'

In that letter there are claims against the Board of criminal acts and violations of the Privacy Act

The clearing of files was part of an agreement reached in order to peacefully end ongoing litigation. This agreement (including the clearing of files) was voted on by the board and passed by a majority vote (4Yes, 1No, 1Abstain) and is recorded in the October 2022 minutes. *Outside of a breach of confidentiality, the author of the letter would have no way of knowing how the Privacy Officer voted.* There was certainly no need for board members to 'insist' the files be unlocked in order to fulfill our promise, as has been claimed. This was also not two board members going rogue, as has been claimed. There was also no breach of PIPA in the clearing of files, as has been claimed. In fact, the decision was very much in line with PIPA and it was done by mutual consent between the board and the parties involved.

If you follow the BOD meeting minutes you will already know that board is reviewing our current practices regarding personal information being kept on member files, as the recent situation has brought to light the need for appropriate policies and procedures to be put in place, to ensure we are in line with the Act moving forward.

In order to be in line with the PIPA Act, we need a process to be in place for when members are in disagreement with the validity of items on their file. To simply ignore these concerns is not an option. Also, and I am quoting directly from PIPA...

Members may request to see their files and with regards to personal/private information, provided that:

1. the purpose for which that personal information was collected is no longer being served by retention of the personal information, and
 2. retention is no longer necessary for legal or business purposes,
- the items may be removed.

More to come on this important topic.

Regarding 'Personal Agendas'

In that letter there are claims against some board members of treachery and betrayal

There have been ongoing insinuations regarding members 'personal agendas,' with no specifics ever mentioned on what that agenda or concern might be. This makes it impossible for the board to address. If you have concerns regarding any 'agenda' item, please explain the specifics of your concern so that we can address it with clarity.

This board is committed to serving ALL members.

The CRT Ruling

In that letter there are claims against the Board of misappropriating funds

These are the facts...The purpose of the complaint was to address concerns regarding society meeting procedures during the COVID-19 pandemic. The CRT ruled that our HHPA meetings and voting held on October 24, 2020, April 30, 2021 and May 21, 2021, did not meet statutory requirements. As a result, we were instructed to hold another GM in compliance with the Societies Act and HHPA Bylaws, for members to re-vote on the 2021-22 budget. Due to the ask and timing, this is the only re-vote required. We were given 90 days to complete this task. The board has called a meeting for March 12, 2022, in order re-vote and be in compliance with this order.

To continue to argue fault, has no value. There is no virtue to be gained by pointing fingers. It is time to simply fix it and move forward.

Regarding concerns that the board will "do something or add something else to the budget" being presented at the first meeting, March 12th, for a re-vote

In that letter it was suggested that the Board might attempt to alter the previously presented 21/22 Budget.

To what purpose would this even serve? As the board has clearly stated already, the first meeting on March 12th, 2022, is a meeting to RE vote on the 2021-22 budget, as it was initially presented, period!

The membership will be receiving a copy of the exact budget that was presented by the PAST BOARD with the specific agenda, to do a re-vote, following the proper voting process. Members will find if they go back to their old records from last year received from the PAST BOARD and compare the document received then, vs the one we are sending now, the document is the same and all line items intact.

Taking advice from the previous Treasurer

The letter claims that our failure to take advice from the Past Treasurer, at that time, was a criminal offense.

When sharing his opinion regarding the CRT ruling, the Treasurer repeatedly stated that he, himself, did not understand the legalities of the CRT decision. As the advice given was to stop writing cheques, this would have left staff without paycheques and HHPA in arrears with suppliers. As a board, we are required to "Act honestly and in good faith and **in the best interest of the Association,**" and we did not view this option as fulfilling our responsibilities.

In Closing

This board is committed to following our Bylaws, Rules and Regulations in our handling of all matters before us. If you have an honest concern regarding board decisions or behavior, please feel confident that you can respectfully bring it to our attention, without fear of reprisal. We will continue to do our best to respond.

Please be reminded that the only subjects that can be discussed at the March meetings must be directly related to the topics as presented. It is not because we don't want to address all concerns, but this meeting is very specific in its scope and not the time and place to rehash history.

Patty Warkentin, President
on behalf of the HHPA Board of Directors