

# Regular Session Board Meeting Minutes for August 31, 2020

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## STAR ISLAND CORPORATION Regular Session of the Board of Directors

**MEETING MINUTES**  
August 31, 2020 at 10:00 am  
Via Zoom

### Members in Attendance:

Kyle Belmont  
Patricia Coleman (ISAUU President)  
Tom Coleman (Vice President of the Board)  
Erik Cordes  
Nick Dembsey (President of the Board)  
Debbie Duval  
Tom Kennedy  
Jeff Loewer (Treasurer)  
Keri Mattaliano (SIUCC President)  
Mary Trudeau (Clerk)  
Arlyn Weeks  
Louise Williams

### Absent:

Leon Dunkley

### Other:

Joe Watts (CEO)  
Celeste Magliocchetti (Pel Liaison)

### **Opening Words**

Louise Williams read a poem by Maggie Smith, titled "Life is Short". The text of the reading is as follows:

Life is short, though I keep this from my children.  
Life is short, and I've shortened mine  
in a thousand delicious, ill-advised ways,  
a thousand deliciously ill-advised ways  
I'll keep from my children. The world is at least  
fifty percent terrible, and that's a conservative  
estimate, though I keep this from my children.  
For every bird there is a stone thrown at a bird.  
For every loved child, a child broken, bagged,  
sunk in a lake. Life is short and the world  
is at least half terrible, and for every kind

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stranger, there is one who would break you,  
though I keep this from my children. I am trying  
to sell them the world. Any decent realtor,  
walking you through a real shithole, chirps on  
about good bones: This place could be beautiful,  
right? You could make this place beautiful.

**Check In** – After a brief Board member check in, sharing milestones, the meeting was convened.

**Call to Order** – Nick Dembsey called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 am.

### **Executive Session**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

**VOTED** to enter Executive Session to review the minutes of the June 9 and July 22, 2020 Executive Session minutes, and to discuss the solar power array.

The Board returned to regular Session at approximately 10:25 am.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

**VOTED** to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2020 meeting of the Board of Directors.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Board.

**VOTED** to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2020 meeting of the Board of Directors.

### **REPORTS:**

#### **CEO Report**

Joe reported on the financial success of the LOAS auction, noting that it appeared that the auction had generated more than \$10K for the Annual Fund. He noted that as of August 28, the Annual Fund was at \$716K in gifts and pledges. Joe also noted that while this is great news, it is also important to aggressively pursue exceeding our revised 2020 Annual Fund goal of \$800K to hedge against the uncertainty we are facing next year. He noted that the development team is selectively approaching potential major donors for 5-10K dollar gifts to augment the regular appeals. He noted that the future is uncertain, and that positioning the island to meet this uncertainty remains the primary goal of the development team.

Joe also reported that the recent sale of Jack Farrell's boat, The Hurricane, had resulted in another adjustment to the marine services agreement, generating additional expense reductions this year. Joe noted that it is his intention to have two vessels servicing the island next year, and he believes that Jack is currently looking to acquire an appropriate vessel to meet our needs. In response to a question from Erik Cordes, Joe noted that the marine services agreement pricing

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had been modeled in the current 5-Year Financial Plan He noted that the SIC purchase of a new boat has therefore not been modelled, but that it is currently a favorable market for the purchase of a sea vessel should we decide to change course. He stated that he has been satisfied with the current marine services arrangement, and intends to renew it for 2021.

Louise Williams took the opportunity to ask Joe about the rodent control efforts on Star Island this past summer. Joe noted that we hired a part-time Rodent Control Specialist this year, and that we invested \$1,700 in traps for use on island this season. Mary Trudeau questioned the relationship between the compost facilities and the rat population, noting that compost operations provide a food source for rodents. Joe noted that our specialist has weighed in on this issue, and we are planning to improve compost containment conditions to reduce access.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Jeff Loewer reported that the staff is continuing to manage well to the revised budget, and noted that the July Financials do not include the recent New Hampshire Nonprofit Emergency Relief Fund grant received by the SIC. He noted that the Finance Committee continues to support the development of the 5-Year Financial Plan, with a focus on 2021. Tom Coleman asked whether the Professional Services line item was stable for this year, and Jeff reported that despite fluctuations, the projection for this line item supports current expenditures.

### **Pel Report**

Celeste Magliocchetti reported that she had little specific commentary, but that the community continues to communicate via social media. Celeste reported, however, that there is limited interest in creating a virtual community, but that specific events such as a coffee house; Pel Show; or tee shirt project are generally engaging larger numbers of the Pel community.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

**VOTED** unanimously to approve the CEO, Finance and Pel reports.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Finance Committee Charge**

Jeff Loewer presented the 2020 Finance Committee charge, noting that the committee tries to review the charge annually. Generally, the review checks the accuracy of roles/titles, and is considered a best practice for the committee.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

**VOTED** to accept the Finance Committee charge for 2020.

The motion was approved unanimously.

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## **Capitalization Policy Changes**

The board reviewed the changes to the Capitalization Policy, and briefly discussed the minor nature of the changes.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

**VOTED** to approve the Capitalization Policy as presented.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

### **Reflections on Board Retreat**

Nick asked for thoughts on the retreat. Tom Kennedy asked whether a search for professional support of the Beloved Community Project had begun, noting that he would support an immediate start to the process and a board resolution authorizing such. Joe responded by suggesting that such a resolution, supporting the process, would be welcomed. Jeff asked whether Joe intended to use professional services to support our work, or whether he intended to utilize an outside consultant. Joe clarified that his intention was to pursue outside professional expertise to augment our existing efforts. He stated that while he believes this decision falls within his purview as CEO, as with most of the other professional services we engage, it would be helpful to have the board's full support, and that he looks forward to continuing this discussion at the board's next meeting.

### **Council on Conferences**

Louise Williams led a brief discussion, with updates on the progress of the Council of Conferences. Several questions emerged, including:

- How can staff help with conference programming?
- How did conferences engage with virtual programming this past season?
- Does conference leadership have suggestions for conference planning, including the timing of the "blue book"; registrations deadlines; and registration policies for the upcoming season.

### **Bringer of Light Guidance**

Erik Cordes noted that he had worked with several Board members this summer to review the guidelines for the Bringer of Light awards. The committee discussed the nomination process; the timing of the awards; the need for the award; and the criteria for awarding the award.

Erik noted that the consensus of the committee is that the award should be awarded annually to deserving members of the Corporation who have made a significant contribution to the well being of the Island. The guidance noted that there should be no posthumous awards. The guidance recommended that the nomination process should be advertised to SIC membership allowing for a wide spectrum of nominations. The committee agreed that there should be a

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standardized form used for nominations, and that nominations would remain active. They also noted that Board members and spouses should not be eligible for the award during their (or their spouse's) tenure on the Board. The committee felt strongly that there is no down side to awarding the Bringer of Light annually, and that it should be a recognized feature of the Annual Meeting.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

**VOTED** to support the approval of the recommendations in the guidance provided by the committee.

### **Beloved Community Project**

The board discussed engagement opportunities for our community, with respect to the Beloved Community Project. It was recommended that the Board elevate the topic to the level of the current reports prepared for each Board meeting, noting that Joe would provide a brief report under the "Reports" section of each meeting agenda moving forward. The Board consensus was that the importance of this project would be reflected in the prioritization of the Board agenda each month.

### **Meeting Reflections:**

Erik Cordes noted that the virtual retreat was efficient, and did not require extensive travel, as the in person retreats often do require. Mary Trudeau felt there was less redundancy in the virtual conversations. Debbie Duval questioned whether virtual retreats (and meetings) could be shifted from weekends to weekdays to acknowledge the conflicts of clergy. Keri Mattaliano noted that the efficiency of a virtual meeting was diminished by the lack of relationship building afforded by the in person retreats. She felt a loss of social connection, and suggested that the Board will have to explore options for engaging board members on a personal level. Debbie Duval noted that smaller, breakout sessions could help overcome this lack of social connection. Tricia questioned whether calling the weekend a "retreat" was appropriate due to the loss of social contact. Jeff suggested snacks, and the consensus of the Board was that social snacking would be welcome during the discussions.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

Voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:47 am.

Meeting Adjourned.

Submitted by:

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Mary Trudeau, Clerk