

# Regular Session Board Meeting Minutes for October 6, 2020

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

### MEETING MINUTES

October 6, 2020 at 7 pm

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)  
Leon Dunkley  
Debbie Duval  
Tom Kennedy  
Jeff Loewer (Treasurer)  
Keri Mattaliano (SIUCC President)  
Arlyn Weeks  
Louise Williams

#### Absent:

Mary Trudeau

#### Other:

Joe Watts (CEO)  
Celeste Magliocchetti (Pel Liaison)

**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 7:00 pm.

#### **Executive Session**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

**VOTED** to enter Executive Session to discuss issues related to Appledore Island.

The Board returned to regular session at approximately 7:30 pm.

#### **REPORTS:**

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## **CEO Report**

Joe Watts noted that he had submitted a written report, and in the interest of time, would take questions. He noted that fund raising continues to go well, and he believes the results of emergency grants and development efforts have improved our anticipated position after a closed season.

## **Beloved Community Update**

Joe Watts summarized recent work to research professional assistance sources for the SIC. Noting that training is ongoing, he stated that this training may assist us in determining the most effective assistance needed by the SIC.

## **Treasurer Report**

Jeff Loewer reported that numbers continue to approximate the budgeted amounts, with a slight increase in capital expenditures due to wastewater projects and completion of the unbudgeted Chapel Steeple project. He noted that the budget is a guide, and uses the best assumptions available at the time it is created, and he is comfortable with the July and August financials.

## **Pel Report**

Celeste Magliocchetti reported that she had little specific commentary, but that work is winding down on the island, and she and others have enjoyed being out there this summer. The overall experience will inform planning over the next few months. She noted that she will be working with staff over the next few months helping with communications recent Pel applicants related to the 2021 hiring process.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

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

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Committee on Appointments**

Tom Coleman presented the report of the Committee on Appointments to the Board. The recommendations of the Committee are as follows:

**1. The Committee on Appointments recommends the following appointments by the Board:**

Membership Committee: Recommend that Caroline Quijada, Patty Boynton, Candace Erickson, and Marlene Smurzynski all be appointed for a second three-year term to begin in January 2021. Caroline will continue as Chair.

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Committee on Appointments: Recommend that Scott Stewart be appointed to a first three-year term to begin in January 2021.

### **2. The CoA informs the Board of the following appointments made and approved by the CEO:**

Island Heritage and Artifacts Committee: Recommend that Jenna Bossert, Tristan Boyer Binns, and Sarah Mills all be appointed for second three-year terms to begin in January 2021.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

**VOTED** to accept the report of the Committee on Appointments.

The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Strategic Planning Work**

Erik Cordes led a brief discussion concerning the progress the subgroup has made in updating the Strategic Resolution, to replace the Star Island Corporation Strategic Plan. The Board noted that accountability and reporting has not been considered in the text, and Erik agreed that the committee work has not reached that level of detail, at this point. Jeff Loewer noted that civil discourse in the outside world continues to degrade, and that this resolution could take the opportunity to comment/explore this continuing issue.

Joe noted that one of the goals, Climate Change, does not readily lend itself to tactics that will allow for regular monitoring or updates, but remains a worthy goal. He noted that tactics are normally developed in about a year's time, and have not yet been developed to support the Resolution. Accountability will depend on the approach to the various components.

Kyle suggested a general statement on accountability, for the goals, is important, noting that the Resolution has some strong, actionable items. Leon noted that the document also contains aspirational goals, which are completely appropriate for a visionary group such as the SIC. He noted that this document is intended for our use, not the world at large and can be specific to our interests.

A brief period of wordsmithing ensued, with minor modifications made to the language of the document. Joe also discussed the need to plan for dissemination, and to modify the visuals to improve transmission of the information.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

**VOTED** to adopt the amended, Strategic Resolution as an update to the 2020 Strategic Plan.

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## **Rooting Out Racism Training**

The Board reviewed the upcoming training planned for staff and Board members. The Board discussed the potential metrics for determining the value and success of the training. Joe noted that success might be seen as the creation of common knowledge and language within our community. Celeste noted that having training is a success in itself, and that exploring the issues is a meaningful and worthwhile experience, despite the difficulty of utilizing metrics to gauge success. The Board agreed that success as a metric is hard to quantify for programming such as the Rooting out Racism program.

Leon noted that it is difficult to assess whether the workshops are appropriate for a Board with some level of knowledge of the topic, noting that the topic is fraught, and may produce anxiety. He iterated that it is important to be able to speak frankly between ourselves. Joe noted that the sessions have been tailored to a shortened format to accommodate the limitations of the Board and the difficulties of a zoom format workshop.

Tricia noted that the 10K dollar price tag for 10 hours of training is a significant investment for the SIC. She asked whether additional services will be necessary, or anticipated, from this consultant after the initial training. Joe noted that 10K dollars is a precious amount of money for the SIC, and that the investment of this type of work has been historically deferred.

Joe Watts asked for a show of support from the Board, with the understanding that an offline discussion between Leon Dunkley and Joe Watts could affect the acceptance of the proposed training.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

**VOTED** to approve the acceptance of the Rooting Out Racism training contract, with the qualification that if there are changes in the recommendations of the CEO/or Board members, the CEO will come back to the Board for a revised approval.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

### **Annual Committee Charge Review Reminder**

Nick Dembsey reminded the Board Liaisons that each committee is required to review, and annually update, if necessary, their committee charge. Board Liaisons should remind committee chairs to do this work

### **November Board Meeting**

Nick noted a significant change in the Board calendar. The Board will not meet for four hours prior to Starry Night, but will have two shorter meetings on weeknights prior to the event.

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## **Long-range Integrated Financial Tool (LIFT) and 2021 Budget Update**

Jeff Loewer discussed the LIFT tool, and its usefulness in planning and budgeting. Despite the pandemic not being a model in the LIFT, Jeff noted it was invaluable in helping the staff and finance team model the 2020 season. Joe noted that the tool has been used earlier in the budget preparation this season, and more people provided input this year than in prior years.

Joe noted that the Finance Committee observed that projections for a delayed opening have not been developed in the tool, nor has a Covid-19 outbreak mid-season been modeled. He also reported that health professionals have been working with staff to develop conditions under which we could allow an opening this summer. We have already started meeting with 2021 conference leaders now, as opposed to waiting till January. Information gleaned from these discussions could eventually work with the LIFT modeling.

Joe noted the four budget scenarios reflect a variety of conditions. Joe pointed out that the big question in his mind is “how do we get to 2022?”. This assumes that by 2022 we could open safely, in one way or the other. He noted that the four models for the 2021 season show the impacts of a variety of capacity and opening issues. Bed nights vary in each scenario, with varying levels of financial success.

Tom Kennedy noted that cooperation between conferences could help increase bed nights across the summer. Tom Coleman asked whether bed night projections included assumptions based on the age of conferees and who might be less likely to come to the island. Joe reported that Mike Bray has done some analysis of conference demographics.

## **Marine Services**

Joe noted that he intends to sign a one year contract for marine services with Jack Farrell. He noted that the arrangement will be similar to this year’s contract, and would require two boats to be available for SIC use.

## **Possible Timeline Adjustments for 2021**

Joe reported that the registration deadlines, hiring deadlines and other planning activities may be altered to reflect the ongoing pandemic and uncertainty with the 2021 season.

## **Meeting Reflections:**

The meeting covered a lot of ground. The Strategic Resolution is a strong statement, and it was good to be able to review and approve it at this meeting. Leon noted that Zoom fatigue is apparent in our discussions, but that we are continuing to manage to have high and beautiful conversations.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

**VOTED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 pm.

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Meeting Adjourned.

Submitted by:

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Mary Trudeau, Clerk