

Regular Session Board Meeting Minutes for March 24, 2021

STAR ISLAND CORPORATION Regular Session of the Board of Directors

MEETING MINUTES
March 24, 2021 at 7:00 pm EST
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 to the Board)
Sarah Whalen (Island Nurse)
Elizabeth Erickson; Topher Soltys; Lucia Green-Weiskel (incoming Board members)

Call to Order – Nick Dembsey called the meeting to order at approximately 7:03 pm.

There was no Executive Session at this meeting of the Board of Directors.

ACTION ITEMS

Committee on Appointments

Tom Coleman presented the Committee on Appointments report.

The Committee on Appointments recommends the following appointments by the Board:

Fund Development Committee: recommend Annie Whitford and Kristen Greger to join the committee in 2021 for first three-year terms.

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The Committee on Appointments recommends that the Board propose the following candidates for the Nominating Committee at the next Annual Meeting of the Star Island Corporation (to be voted on by the members) consistent with the SIC bylaws:

Recommend Kris LoFrumento to join Will Emmons as Co-Chairs for the coming year, including the prep period for the Annual Meeting.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

VOTED to approve the recommendations of the Committee on Appointments.

Additionally, the CoA informed the Board of the following appointments made and approved by the CEO:

Rutledge Marine Lab Committee: recommend Gillian Curran to join the committee in 2021 for a first three-year term.

Conference Services Committee: Megan Grocki to join Carla Cole as co-chair in 2021.

Discussion of 2021 Conference Season:

Joe began the discussion by reporting that there have been over 900 registrations for conferences in June, July and through LOAS II. He reminded the board that a summary of our plan and protocols was sent out to everyone in our database on March 5, and they are also on our web site. He noted that registrations for the September conferences are scheduled to open on May 10. He also noted that staff, the Health Committee and the Crisis Response Team have been working on strategies to allow the SIC to pivot from “yellow” (current plan) to “orange” (more restrictive plan) or “lime” (less restrictive plan, though only to be implemented in a methodical and operationally feasible way). Joe reiterated the three things the Board has asked to know more about: (1) how we will address on-island symptoms/cases; (2) what are our “thresholds” for the season and how would we pivot between them; and (3) what is the status of our testing program for employees.

Sarah Whalen reported on various COVID-19 related protocols being developed for conferees and staff. She noted that protocols include prearrival testing; on island testing and quarantine procedures for addressing on island COVID-19 symptoms or known positive cases; and contact tracing on the island. She stated that negative tests will be required of all conferees and employees prior to their arrival on island. While this will not necessarily catch all infections, she noted that a variety of protocols are being developed to manage the virus. She noted that an outbreak does not necessarily require the closing of the conference center, and that much discussion and thought has centered on “what does a contained outbreak look like” and how does testing impact shared living facilities.

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Joe stated that approximately 90K dollars has been earmarked for testing, noting that costs will drop if we are able to partner with UNH. Sarah noted that the logistics of prearrival testing are being considered, as are the impacts of vaccination on employees.

Keri Mattaliano reported that the Health Committee continues to review the various opening scenarios, noting that she believes a “yellow” scenario may well be recommended by the Committee, with the caveat that we should review this recommendation on a periodic basis as we approach the conference season. This scenario would limit the conferees to a maximum of 170 guests per week. Families would be housed together, and dining room capacity would be limited, and outdoor eating encouraged. The Committee recommends reviewing protocols in place at similar facilities, and is working to develop manageable recommendations.

Tom Coleman reported on the Crisis Management Team, noting that they are essentially an advisory group that has been meeting regularly for about a year. He noted that both senior staff and Board members sit on this group, and that the goal is to provide balanced recommendations based on public health principles and the financial implications of various scenarios. He also noted that the Crisis Response Team considers things such as the likelihood of conferee compliance with protocols, and the impacts of mandating masks; social distancing; and other safety protocols. Board members noted that children can be difficult to manage, with respect to social distancing requirements, and that children’s programs will need to consider changes to be able to safely manage this population.

Topher Soltys noted that the island should consider that cost sharing of Pel medical expenses may be needed, as some Pels may not have adequate health insurance. Board members questioned the enforceability of masking, and it was noted that while at this time we are strongly recommending vaccines, we are holding off on finalizing this policy till May 1, with the understanding that we might require vaccines for employees and/or guests. It was noted that we will need to evolve throughout the season, and that staff and conferees should be considered a single community with respect to public health issues.

Property Insurance:

Joe Watts commented on staff’s annual review of our insurance policies, noting that while we are heavily insured, we do not insure to replacement cost levels. Joe reported that we typically increase our coverage annually, but that we typically pay about 125K dollars a year for about 17M dollars of coverage. This averages to about \$215 dollars per square foot of coverage, and some of our facilities volunteers have estimated that it could be as much as \$600-800 dollars per square foot. The discrepancy reflects a fiscal need to balance premium fees and benefits. Joe noted that we carry fire damage; wind damage; and some flood insurance in our various policies. The Board was given the opportunity to comment on this strategic investment, with Nick noting that the Board is effectively endorsing Joe Watts’ insurance strategies. Joe observed that he is hoping to involve the Strategic Facilities Planning and Finance Committees, as well as the Board, in a more comprehensive review of our property insurance prior to our 2022 renewal.

Planning for the Annual Meeting:

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Nick noted that the meeting will be virtual, again, this year. It was noted if we used the standard Zoom application, it will allow for attendees to view other attendees and to have breakout rooms. On the other hand, the Zoom Webinar application, while not allowing for these functions, worked well for us last year. It was observed that virtual meetings with large numbers of attendees are complicated to manage. The Board discussed the importance of engaging the Corporation, and the value of the breakout groups. Based on a consensus vote, the Board generally agreed that breakout groups were not integral to the success of the 2021 Annual Meeting. The value of a social component to the meeting was stressed, and the Board agreed to brainstorm various potentially engaging social get togethers for after the meeting.

Meeting Reflections

It was agreed that the meeting was successful in accomplishing the goals of the agenda.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

VOTED to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 pm.

Meeting Adjourned.

Submitted by:

Mary Trudeau, Clerk