

Regular Session Board Meeting Minutes for August 29, 2022

STAR ISLAND CORPORATION

Regular Session Meeting of the Board of Directors

MEETING MINUTES

August 29, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. EDT

Members Present

Joni Abbadessa, Treasurer

Kyle Belmont

Patricia Coleman (President, ISA UU)

Leon Dunkley

Debbie Duval, President

Elizabeth Erickson

Lucia Green-Weiskel

Tom Kennedy, Vice President

Keri Mattaliano (President, SIUCC) (via Zoom)

Caroline Quijada

April Rosario

Topher Soltys

Arlyn Weeks, Clerk

Other

Sabine Michaud, Pelican Liaison

Joe Watts, CEO

Christana Wille McKnight, Island Minister and BCP Manager

Opening Words were offered by Debbie Duval.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

VOTED to go into executive session at 10:35 a.m.

The Board returned from executive session, after a short break, at 12:05 p.m.

Minutes of June 7, 2022 Board Meeting

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

VOTED to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2022 meeting.

CEO's Report

Joe Watts noted that he plans to submit written reports alternating with oral reports at Board meetings, as an efficiency measure.

Actual bed nights are now lower than the projections in the June financials, primarily due to last-minute cancellations, predominantly resulting from COVID. The Annual Fund remains tentatively on track. COVID created a lot of on-Island work this season. A temporary easement for the breakwater project will soon be submitted to the Army for access to and use of the land near the old incinerator site in return for a payment of \$2868. This may necessitate a change to the perimeter road for the 2023 season. The Army will have priority for use of that land during that period should they not complete the work as scheduled (prior to the start of the conference season).

Beloved Community Project Update

April Rosario reminded members of the four tracks pursued by the BCP Task Force over the past year.

Christana Wille McKnight reported that she provided workshops, chapel services, book groups and the Share Your Star Light initiative to each conference this season. The initiative encouraged conferees to talk to 1 new Shoaler per day and to give themselves a gold sticker for each such conversation. Reaction varied among conferences. The book groups were the least popular offering, being held only at Building Bridges and Star Gathering II, but both were well attended. Christana offered chapel services at all conferences except All Star I. Workshops were included in all conference schedules. Attendance varied from 5 individuals to 60. A few individuals, who were very vocal and clear, told Christana that they were unhappy with the position that she holds, but there were fewer such reactions than she had expected. Christana spent a lot of time dealing with employee issues. She talked with former Island Ministers before starting, and the job has been about what she expected. Because of the location of her office, she gave more tours to day trippers and boaters than she had anticipated; some of these people became personal retreaters. Outreach will be a larger part of her job off-season, and she is thinking about how to revise her job description.

April reported that the Task Force met during open-up to discuss what it would like to do this year. The Task Force now has a Pelican liaison, Leo Abraham. It may undertake the following tracks:

- Highlighting a different portion of the Guidebook for conferences
- Looking at Pelican hiring and recruitment
- Needs-based and diversity initiatives in financial aid

Stories We Tell: looking at our physical spaces, perhaps “What is the Tucke Monument?”

The Task Force has not yet voted on these tentative plans. It wants to take care not to cause harm in the process of increasing diversity on the Island.

Treasurer’s Report

Joni Abbadessa referred members to the financial documents included in the packet provided to members before the meeting. Our operating deficit is lower than anticipated. We have applied for two \$20,000 FEMA grants for COVID-related expenses and for another Rockingham County NH grant for other such expenses. Plans to increase the operations reserve fund were stalled by COVID, though we did not use any of the reserve fund during the pandemic. The fund now stands at \$165,000. We are planning to resume additions to the reserve fund this year, and the staff and the Finance Committee are working on the next iteration of our reserve policy. The Finance Committee is also engaged in its annual review of the format of our financial statements. For the first time in Joe’s tenure, we have not used our credit line. Next year’s draft budget will be presented this fall.

Pel Report

Sabine Michaud was struggling with some of the statements made by some Pelicans at last night’s meeting with the Board, as they contradicted her own experience of the season. She expressed concern that some Pels were not following proper channels of communication/conflict resolution, such as approaching supervisors, Island management, and the Joint Loss Management Committee. She felt that some of the statements made were not a fair representation of the Pelican community, which she found to be the strongest and most resilient she has experienced. There were two mental health evacuations during the summer, and she found the community to be very respectful of the individuals involved and to have processed the events really well. The community also was strong and responsive after another incident. She was proud of the Pelicans this summer.

Members expressed deep appreciation for Sabine’s honest and emotional report.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

VOTED to approve the reports of the CEO, Beloved Community Task Force, treasurer and Pel liaison.

Actions Stemming from Retreat

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

VOTED to approve the appointment of the following individuals to a subgroup to draft a new strategic plan: Leon Dunkley, Caroline Quijada, Kyle Belmont, Tricia Coleman, Tom Kennedy, Joe Watts and possibly one additional staff member.

Due to time constraints, Board Liaison Reports were deferred to a subsequent meeting.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

VOTED to adjourn at 1:05 p.m.

All votes were unanimous.

Submitted by
Arlyn Weeks, Clerk