

Regular Session Board Meeting Minutes for January 24, 2023

STAR ISLAND CORPORATION
Regular Session Meeting of the Board of Directors
MEETING MINUTES
January 24, 2023 at 7:05 p.m. EST via Zoom

Members Present

Joni Abbadessa, Treasurer

Kyle Belmont

Tricia Coleman (President, ISA UU)

Leon Dunkley

Debbie Duval, President

Elizabeth Erickson

Lucia Green-Weiskel

Caroline Quijada

April Rosario

Topher Soltys

Arlyn Weeks, Clerk

Members Absent

Cary Cuiccio (President, SIUCC)

Tom Kennedy, Vice President

Other

Sabine Michaud, Pelican Liaison\

Joe Watts, CEO

Opening Words were offered by Arlyn Weeks.

Call to Order

Debbie Duval called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m.

December 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

VOTED to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2022 meeting of the Board.

CEO's Report

Joe Watts directed members' attention to his written report in the packet for this meeting. He reported that the priority deadline for Pelican applications was January 23, and that 144 applications have been received so far, compared to 116 by this time last year (when the total was 132 by that year's deadline). We are promoting additional applications. Bill Knox's update for bednight registrations to date is 1527, 34% of goal in the proposed budget. AllStar 2 is almost full. We are looking at their early registration policy for possible ideas for other conferences' registration.

Beloved Community Project Update

April Rosario reminded members that the BCP Task Force has established four tracks for this season, some of which are pre-season and some for the conference season. Share Your Star Light was the most successful conference programming last year and will be continued this year. The theme for this summer that is tied to the Guidebook is Kindness, which is not Niceness. Workshops, for 4th graders to adults, will be centered around the monuments on the Island.

Treasurer's Report

Joni Abbadessa reminded members that the financials are in the meeting packet. Revenue for 2022 was under expectations but expenses were as well; a year-end balance of around \$200,000 is projected. The Finance Committee recommends that the Board adopt the proposed 2023 budget. The Committee has finalized its charge and is drafting goals for 2023. The audit has started. A financial review will be provided for Board members at the March retreat.

Pelican Liaison's Report

Sabine Michaud reported that not much is going on right now in the Pelican community. A successful Q and A information session was held for interested potential Pelican applicants.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

VOTED to approve the foregoing reports.

Committee on Appointments Report

Lucia Green-Weiskel reported that the Committee recommends that Richard Case, Bruce Parsons and Tom Mansfield be reappointed to 1-year terms as advisors to the Strategic Facilities Planning Committee and that Bill Peterson be appointed to a second 3-year term on the Finance Committee.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

VOTED to appoint Richard Case, Bruce Parsons, and Tom Mansfield to 1-year terms as advisors to the Strategic Facilities Planning Committee and Bill Peterson to a 3-year term on the Finance Committee.

Lucia informed the members that the CEO has appointed Jennifer Anderson Khavari to a first term on the Outreach and Engagement Committee and Teri Behm as an advisor to that committee. A brief discussion of the process for revision and approval of committee charges and the attendance of COA members at other committees' meetings followed.

Hope Coolidge joined the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Safe Community Policy Review

Joe Watts provided the Board with an updated Safe Community Policy, highlighting the move of the bullet point regarding treating all with respect to a more prominent position and a change in the language on page 4 to make the appointment of a Hearing Officer automatic. The Personnel Committee recommends that this version of the Policy be adopted. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

VOTED to adopt the Safe Community Policy as recommended by the Personnel Committee.

Conflict of Interest Policies Review

Debbie Duval reminded members that they will fill out the forms required by the Conflict of Interest Policy in May and that staff members fill them out in January. No changes in the policy are proposed.

2023 Budget Recommendations, Discussion & Approval

The 2023 budget as proposed by the staff has been recommended by the Finance Committee for approval by the Board. Joni Abbadessa noted that budgeting for 2023 has presented unique challenges, as it is the first post-COVID year without federal funding and the future impacts of COVID are unknown. She stated that the proposed budget provides financial security for 2023 and into 2024.

Hope Coolidge provided a slide show of highlights from the proposed budget. Since the first draft, we have obtained better rates for health insurance (decreased by \$14,000). There are increases for legal fees and for marine transportation of 5 to 7%. The goal for the Annual Fund has been increased based on performance through December 2022. The budget for capital improvements has been increased by \$82,000. With a focus on service and service levels, room and board rates were increased by 9%. (120 new Shoalers have already registered for 2023 conferences.) There is a significant increase in budgeted financial aid. There is a 6% increase in salary and wages for year-round and seasonal professional staff and Pelican supervisors, along with three new full-time seasonal positions (executive chef, facilities project manager, and assistant conference center manager). There are 10 additional Pelican positions compared to last year. Some of the proposed capital projects may be deferred as finances may require. This is a building year; it would be unwise to reduce capital spending at this time.

After discussion, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

VOTED to adopt the proposed budget for 2023.

Hope Coolidge left the meeting at this point.

Governance Task Force Update

Joe Watts reported that the Best Practices Subgroup is meeting monthly. Kris LoFrumento is now the chair of the subgroup, which is drafting a questionnaire to be sent to specific organizations with questions about board membership, organization membership, covenants, conflict resolution, and other issues. Arlyn Weeks reported that the Bylaws Subgroup has not met, but that she is investigating bylaws of other nonprofits and keeping a list of what might need changing in our current bylaws. Liz Erickson reported that the Committees and Constituent Groups Subgroup is putting together a survey for committee chairs and a slightly different survey for committee members and liaisons. It has not yet determined how to get input from constituent groups. Topher Soltys reported that the Membership Subgroup has sent out an update to Corporation membership following the Town Hall and will meet after the deadline for feedback from that update. The subgroup will then make recommendations to the Task Force to be followed by eventual Board and membership approval.

Strategic Plan Work Group Update

Caroline Quijada reported that the Work Group has made progress on an update for the Strategic Plan and will have a draft for review by the Board at the March meeting. The Group has agreed on four major goals and is working on objectives and elements for each. It is making sure that its recommendations will be aligned with our mission and vision statements.

March Board Retreat

After brief discussion, the Board agreed to meet in person for its retreat on March 3 and 4.

Reports for Annual Meeting

Joe Watts noted that the committee reports received to date are in the meeting packet. Four reports will have to be prepared later, due to the nature of the work of those committees. Any questions or comments regarding the reports should be directed to Joe by February 1.

Annual Meeting

A survey about the format for this year's Annual Meeting went out on January 24. Joe will report on the results.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

VOTED to go into executive session at 8:42 p.m.

The Board returned from executive session at 9:06 p.m.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

VOTED to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 p.m.

All votes were unanimous.

Submitted by

Arlyn Weeks, Clerk

