

**Regular Session Board Minutes for August 29, 2023**

**STAR ISLAND CORPORATION**

**Regular Session Meeting of the Board of Directors**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**August 29, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. EDT**

**Members Present**

Joni Abbadessa, Treasurer  
Kyle Belmont  
Tricia Coleman (President, ISA UU)  
Cary Cuiccio (President, SIUCC)  
Leon Dunkley  
Debbie Duval, President  
Elizabeth Erickson  
Lucia Green-Weiskel  
Tom Kennedy, Vice President  
Caroline Quijada  
April Rosario  
Topher Soltys  
Arlyn Weeks, Clerk

**Other**

JJ Drummond, Pel Liaison  
Joe Watts, CEO

**Opening Words** were presented by Debbie Duval.

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Debbie Duval at 9:09 a.m.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board  
VOTED to enter into executive session.

The Board returned from executive session at 11:35 a.m.

**Minutes of June 6, 2023 Board Meeting**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board  
VOTED to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2023 regular session.

**CEO's Report**

Joe Watts referred members to his written report. He added that there is a plan for off-season hours and time off and that the Portsmouth office will be closed for the weeks of October 16, 2023, Thanksgiving

2023, Christmas 2023, and February 26, 2024. Weekly from October through March the office will be open Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Joe reported that this has been a great season on-Island, although bednights will not reach the budgeted goal. We are trying to end the fiscal year in the black. Receipt of the \$329,000 ERC means that our cash position is solid. There may be an additional \$15,000 coming from FEMA.

### **Beloved Community Project Update**

April Rosario reported that work on Pelican recruitment went well and that the guidebook, financial aid and on-Island programming were the other areas of work for the Task Force. Leo Abraham was the Pelican representative to the BCP. Institutionalized programming included adult workshops, which were adopted by all but one conference; youth programs, which were adopted by half of the conferences; and a chapel service, which was adopted by half of the conferences. The Task Force received good feedback on all of the programming, which was Star-focused.

The Task Force will meet starting in September. Yelena Mayer is the new Pelican representative. The first issue is what does the Task Force want to become, as a task force is limited in duration and the BCP leadership should continue. Board input is needed on this issue. Doing four projects per year is not sustainable. The Task Force is looking at long-term projects and may integrate the guidebook with the conference leadership handbook.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Joni Abbadessa noted that the financials through June are in the Board's packet for this meeting. She noted that we received interest of over \$16,000 on the ERC payment. Revenue is down approximately \$173,000 but expenses are down by about \$200,000. The room and board income goal may not be met but other areas are outperforming the budget. Capital projects have been underway all season and are still going on. The Finance Committee will be speaking with our current auditors about rotating the audit staff and audit partner assigned to SIC, as the general practice is to rotate individual auditors every 3-5 years. An expanded financial session is planned for the November Board meeting.

### **Pel Report**

JJ Drummond reported that work is progressing on the questions where do we go and how do we approach in order to clarify roles and responsibilities. A Google survey for post-season is in the works. The Pelicans are hoping to partner with the Beloved Community Project. A major concern re safety is the new fire panel, as the frequent false alarms this season can reduce response. Plans for Pelican improvements, particularly in the Underworld, are not well known in the community.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board  
VOTED to accept the foregoing reports.

### **Committee on Appointments Report**

Lucia Green-Weiskel reported that the Committee recommended that Steve Parr be appointed as a member of the Committee.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board  
VOTED to appoint Steve Parr to a first term on the Committee on Appointments.

Lucia reported that Dan Williams has been appointed to the Rutledge Marine Lab Committee.

### **Conference Services Committee Liaison Report**

Tricia Coleman reported that the Committee has not met since her last report but will be scheduling a meeting.

### **Council of Conferences Liaison Report**

Leon Dunkley reported that the group is in the process of re-forming and is concerned with providing better service to smaller conferences. The group is at a crossroads and had no spring meeting. There has always been more vitality at meetings that are scheduled for the same day as the Annual Meeting. Joe noted that he has been in conversations with past Council of Conferences board members about the current lack of activity and the possible ways forward.

### **Health Committee Liaison Report**

Caroline Quijada reported that the Committee has not met since May. There were enough COVID tests and masks for the entire season. Hiring a full-time seasonal nurse was an issue this summer. The Committee will meet in October.

### **Island Heritage & Artifacts Committee Liaison Report**

Arlyn Weeks reported that the Committee has not met for almost a year. The new chair has been dealing with personal issues. Christana Wille McKnight, the staff liaison to the Committee, is very concerned about the state of Vaughn Cottage and has recruited some volunteer help. She is addressing the problems that she has identified energetically and hopes to reinvigorate the Committee.

### **Rutledge Marine Lab Committee Liaison Report**

Topher Soltys reported that the Committee has been quite active and has expressed a desire for 2 full-time naturalists in the future. New equipment has been installed. The Committee met on-Island recently. The Lab is a hub of day-visitor activity, which could be leveraged more generally to bring in new conferees and Pelicans.

### **Strategic Facilities Planning Committee Liaison Report**

Tom Kennedy reported that the Committee will meet on-Island next week.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board  
VOTED to adjourn at 12:25 p.m.

All votes were unanimous.

Submitted by  
Arlyn Weeks, Clerk