

**Regular Session Board Minutes for January 16, 2024**

**STAR ISLAND CORPORATION**

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

**MEETING MINUTES**

**January 16, 2024 at 7:10 p.m. EST via Zoom**

**Members Present**

Joni Abbadessa, Treasurer

Kyle Belmont

Cary Cuiccio (President, SIUCC)

Leon Dunkley

Elizabeth Erickson

Lucia Green-Weiskel

Tom Kennedy, Vice President

Caroline Quijada

April Rosario

Topher Soltys

Arlyn Weeks, Clerk

**Members Absent**

Debbie Duval, President

Ali Walton (President, ISA UU)

**Other**

Joe Watts, CEO

**Absent**

JJ Drummond, Pelican Liaison

Tom Kennedy called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

A moment of silence in memory of Duncan Duval was observed.

**Opening Words** were offered by April Rosario.

### **November 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

VOTED to approve the minutes of the November 11, 2023 regular session meeting.

### **CEO's Report**

Joe Watts reported on damage to the Island from the January 13 storm. Of the damage done, the costliest to remedy will be the damage to the pier railings. There was some likely non-structural damage under the truck trestle, and debris is strewn along the perimeter road from EMB to the wastewater treatment facility. There is also damage to the seawall in a few locations. Jack Farrell will go out to assess the damage, which is not covered by insurance. Preliminary estimates based on photos indicate that the pier repair could cost \$25,000 and the road work \$10,000, which can be covered within the footprint of the current budget proposal, and perhaps we can secure some grant funding.

The communications report is in the meeting packet. The 2023 year-end financial statements will be available in late February, as is normally the case. The projections in the November financials were made before the Annual Fund performance became better than expected. Staffing will come in lower than projected. It is still possible to be close to a zero loss for the year.

April Rosario left the meeting at approximately this point due to a power failure.

There are 82 applications for Pel positions so far; the deadline is next Monday. Last year we had 94 applications at this time. Last year we received 50 applications in the last week before the deadline and 37 after the deadline. There will be a Zoom session Thursday night for potential applicants. There are around 100 positions to fill.

There will be 13-15 new Corporation members proposed at the Annual Meeting. Online registration launched yesterday; there are 630 registered so far. Our social media presence has been expanded. There was a productive 2024 kickoff meeting with conference leaders on January 10. Applications for financial aid are already online. Discounts are back this year; application forms for two of the three are already up and the third will go up on Friday. There will be more opportunities for Board members to help with marketing.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Joni Abbadessa reported that the Finance Committee met last week. She described the financials in the meeting packet in some detail. We are in a healthy cash position going into 2024. The Finance Committee is finalizing its goals and charge for 2024. The 2023 audit is starting; the audit subcommittee will be meeting with the auditors in February and March. Another financial presentation will be offered at the February retreat.

The **Pelican Liaison's Report** was submitted in writing in the meeting packet.

### **Committee on Appointments Report**

Lucia Green-Weiskel presented the report of the Committee on Appointments. Upon the recommendation of the Committee, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

VOTED to reappoint Nick Bresinsky to a three-year term on the Personnel Committee; to reappoint Kristen Greger and Annie Whitford to three-year terms on the Fund Development Committee; to appoint Kelvin Dowd to a three-year term on the Fund Development Committee; to appoint Nancy Miller to a three-year term on the Committee on Appointments; to appoint Noni Cooper and Abby Lourie to three-year terms on the Membership Committee; to reappoint Cam Duval and Lucia Green-Weiskel to three-year terms on the Membership Committee; and to appoint Cam Duval as chair of the Membership Committee.

Lucia informed the Board of the following appointments made by the CEO on the recommendations of the Committee on Appointments: appointment of Ali Millard to a first three-year term and reappointment of Terri Behm for a one-year term as advisor to the Outreach and Engagement Committee; reappointment of Amy Henrie and Liz Hanna for three-year terms on the Conference Services Committee; and appointments of Karen Mathiasen and Ken Swanson for one-year terms as advisors to the Conference Services Committee.

### **2024 Budget Recommendations, Discussion & Approval**

Hope Coolidge, CFO, joined the meeting to present the proposed budget as unanimously recommended by the Finance Committee. Joni Abbadessa noted that we are still recovering from the effects of COVID. Hope and Joe Watts noted a few areas that had been trimmed since the draft budget was presented in November. The budget is based on 19,000 bed nights after a realistic conference-by-conference analysis. He noted that we were at just over 22,000 bed nights for 2019, before the pandemic, and we hope to build back up to 21,000 bed nights in the next year or two.

Since the November preliminary budget was presented, the Annual Fund has been increased based on 2023 performance, as are receipts from the Grill and Snack Bar. There are only a few changes in the area of expense, though the result is an improved bottom line from the November draft. One increase to expense since then is in the health insurance premium. However, this is more than offset by a variety of expense reductions. Due to a new credit card vendor and offering guests the option to pay credit card fees associated with their room and board bill on-Island, we have reduced credit card fees from \$90,000 in the preliminary budget to \$65,000 in the final budget proposal. Capital expenditures are reduced by \$90,000. Total net income is now \$112,000. There is a \$15,000 contingency in conference operations. There is a need for 7-day-a-week logistics coverage, as well as some other changes to staffing vs. last year.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, and after discussion, the Board

VOTED to approve the 2024 budget as presented and recommended by the Finance Committee.

Hope left the meeting at this point.

### **Other Business**

Joe Watts asked the Board to approve an application for a grant from the UUA Disaster Relief Fund for repairs resulting from the January 13 storm.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

VOTED to authorize the staff to apply to the UUA Disaster Relief Fund for a grant up to \$35,000 for repairs necessitated by the January 13 storm.

### **Nominating Committee Memo**

Liz Erickson referred members to the memo in the meeting packet. The Nominating Committee will not be presenting new names for Board positions in 2024, and there may be no openings in 2025 or 2026. The Nominating Committee has asked the Board to look at this to determine whether this is a problem. It was the consensus of the Board that the Governance Task Force should look at this issue.

### **Governance Task Force Update**

Tom Kennedy reported that the Task Force will be meeting Thursday to resolve specific issues. It will deliver a report at the February retreat. The Board needs to decide how to roll this out to the membership; we will discuss this in February.

### **February Board Retreat**

Staff will be included in the Friday afternoon retreat on February 9. An optional financial session will be offered at 11 a.m. Social options include dinner on Friday night. Board members suggested the following topics to be included in the retreat in addition to the standard topics usually covered: planning for climate change, the strategic plan report, outreach and Beloved Community Project work in that area, SIC possibly providing additional programming for conferences; committee charges, and Appledore. Members should provide any other suggestions to Tom by January 22.

### **Reports for Annual Meeting**

Some draft reports for the Annual Meeting are in the packet. Questions or comments should be directed to Joe by January 22.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

VOTED to enter into executive session at 8:38 p.m.

The Board returned from executive session at 9:31 p.m.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

VOTED to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 p.m.

All votes were unanimous.

Submitted by

Arlyn Weeks, Clerk