

Regular Session Board Minutes for February 10, 2024

STAR ISLAND CORPORATION

Regular Session Meeting of the Board of Directors

MEETING MINUTES

February 10, 2024 at 1:00 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

Topher Soltys

Ali Walton (President, ISA UU)

Arlyn Weeks, Clerk

Members Absent

Debbie Duval, President

April Rosario

Others

Joe Watts, CEO

JJ Drummond, Pelican Liaison

Tom Kennedy called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

January 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2024 regular session meeting.

CEO's Report

Joe Watts referred members to his written report in the meeting packet. He also reported that he is working with a group that wants to depart from Star on a hot air balloon trip in the coming spring or fall. Bed nights are behind last year at this point, with 7,965 registered as of February 9. This is 42% of goal and includes 199 new conferees.

Discounts, which were reinstated this year, seem to be working. So far there are 26 “you will come back” registrations, 13 former Pelican registrations, and 12 “10-10 bring a friend” registrations.

More targeted marketing efforts are underway with both staff and conferences working proactively. Hiring is also underway. There are fewer Pelican applications than we had hoped. A search is being launched for an Island engineer and a logistics coordinator.

Beloved Community Project Update

Joe reported on behalf of April Rosario that a DEI youth campership proposal has been finalized by the Task Force and may come before the Board in April. The Smith Monument project plans to use all three faces of the monument for signage to be installed in the fall, one related to indigenous peoples, one likely related to fisher folk, and one with the current information. This will be worked into conference programming.

Joe and Lucia Green-Weiskel reminded members that members of the Task Force hoped that it would become an operating committee or an advisory group rather than a task force, which by its nature is temporary.

Treasurer's Report

Joni Abbadessa reported that the Finance Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The year-end numbers will be finalized by the end of February. Net income for 2023 will be higher than the number projected at the January meeting. Cash and equity are solid in spite of financial challenges. These good outcomes are due to the work of the staff.

Pelican Liaison's Report

JJ Drummond reported that she was able to take part in the Q and A session for new Pelicans a few weeks ago. Ten to 15 new Pelicans were involved, all of whom were very excited. New and returning Pelicans are waiting to hear about their position assignments.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

VOTED unanimously to accept the reports of the CEO, Treasurer and Pelican Liaison.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

VOTED unanimously to accept the reports of the CEO, Treasurer and Pelican Liaison as presented at its January 16, 2024 meeting.

JJ Drummond left the meeting at this point.

Committee on Appointments Report

Lucia Green-Weiskel presented the report of the Committee on Appointments. In accordance with the Committee's recommendations, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board VOTED unanimously to appoint Mike Claus to a first three-year term on the Strategic Facilities Planning Committee, Jim Scheffler to a first three-year term on the Strategic Facilities Planning Committee, and Elizabeth (Elle) Erickson to a first three-year term on the Membership Committee.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, and in accordance with the Committee's recommendation, the Board

VOTED, with 10 in favor and Caroline Quijada abstaining, to appoint Caroline Quijada to a first three-year term on the Personnel Committee.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

VOTED, with 10 in favor and Ali Walton abstaining, to recommend that the membership elect at the 2024 Annual Meeting Jane Clay to a second three-year term on the Nominating Committee and Ali Walton and Joni Abbadessa to first three-year terms on the Nominating Committee.

The Committee on Appointments reported that, upon its recommendation, the CEO had appointed Marlene Smurzynski to a first three-year term on the Health Committee.

Annual Policy Review

Joe Watts reviewed minor changes to the Safe Community Policy as recommended by the Personnel Committee, primarily to include an explicit reference to sexual violence. He confirmed that this policy applies only to the Corporation, not to conferences, which have their own policies, something he intends to reinforce at the upcoming conference leadership meetings.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

VOTED unanimously to approve the Safe Community Policy as presented.

The Board reviewed the Conflict of Interest Policies, which remain unchanged from last year.

Board Directory

Joe Watts asked members to review the current directory and e-mail any changes or corrections to Kate Brady as soon as possible.

Committee Charge Approvals

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

VOTED unanimously to approve the charges of the Committee on Appointments, the Fund Development Committee, the Membership Committee, the Nominating Committee, and the Personnel Committee as presented.

Other Business

Joe Watts noted that he had prepared the report from the Personnel Committee that is in the meeting packet on behalf of Debbie Duval and asked members to send any edits to him.

Items from Winter Retreat Needing Further Action

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

VOTED unanimously to amend the Bringer of Light Award process as described on the SIC website to describe an eligible recipient as a “member” rather than an “active member” and to change the nominating procedure so that the nomination of anyone not sponsored by a member of the Board at the time when the vote on the award is taken will not be carried forward into the next award cycle.

If a nomination is not to be carried forward, the person who made the nomination will be informed that the nomination may be resubmitted during the next cycle.

Outreach & Engagement Committee Liaison Report

Kyle Belmont reported that Jim Cooper is the chair of the Committee, which worked with the Strategic Plan group on a postcard survey, and on the information session for potential Pelicans. A blitz message for Pelican job postings was sent to 216 colleges. The Committee is piloting two conferee Zoom sessions; about 15 people attended the first session and the second will be held in March. The Committee is also reinvigorating the Ambassador program.

Personnel Committee Liaison Report

Caroline Quijada reported that the Committee met in January. It recommended amendments to the Safe Community Policy and updated the Personnel Handbook.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

VOTED unanimously to enter into executive session at 1:49 p.m.

The Board returned from executive session at 3:22 p.m.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

VOTED unanimously to adjourn at 3:24 p.m.

Submitted by

Arlyn Weeks, Clerk