

**Regular Session Board Minutes for August 27, 2024**

**STAR ISLAND CORPORATION**

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

**MEETING MINUTES**

**August 27, 2024 at 9:05 a.m. EDT**

**Members Present**

Joni Abbadessa, Treasurer

Kyle Belmont

Cary Cuiccio (President, SIUCC)

Leon Dunkley

Debbie Duval, President

Elizabeth Erickson

Lucia Green-Weiskel

Caroline Quijada, Vice President

April Rosario

Topher Soltys

Ali Walton (President, ISA UU)

Arlyn Weeks, Clerk

**Members Absent**

Tom Kennedy

**Others**

Erin Dickerson, Pelican Liaison

Joe Watts, CEO

Debbie Duval called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Debbie presented the opening words.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

VOTED to enter into executive session.

The Board returned from executive session at 10:25 a.m.

Debbie Duval warmly welcomed Erin Dickerman, the new Pelican liaison.

### **Minutes of June 4, 2024 Board Meeting**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

VOTED to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2024 regular session Board meeting.

### **Security Discussion**

Board Members continued a general discussion of a range of options under consideration for a more formal security plan for the Island. It was agreed that this is a goal for the Corporation. Aspects of the plan will be confidential. The Board trusts the staff in this regard.

### **CEO's Report**

Joe Watts reported that the season has gone very well overall. There were many new Shoalers and we are doing more to make new people welcome. We still need to do better with cleaning and housekeeping. More regular season workers than ever are leaving before their scheduled leave date. Covid continues to contribute to bed night attrition, but bed nights will probably exceed 19,000 nonetheless, although we will probably not meet our goal for bed nights. We are projecting Room and Board income as of July 31 at slightly less than the budgeted \$1.566 million. The Annual Fund is on track to meet its goal.

There have been more on-Island inspections than normal, including liability insurance, workers' compensation insurance, boilers, propane, food service, and the Coast Guard. All inspections were passed. We invited the Coast Guard to the Island to go over our evacuation protocols, and it was a very productive meeting. The Pease Development Authority initially offered a one-year lease for the dock used by the Shining Star, but we were able to obtain a three-year lease extension instead.

Joe meets weekly with FEMA. We are not pursuing an SBA loan, though we expect to receive a grant of \$15-20,000.

There were 34 cases of conferee COVID and 13 Pelican cases, most of which were concentrated in particular time periods. There were usually 1 or 2 cases per week with the exception of two clusters earlier in the summer

Starry Night will be held this year. A feasibility study with SRG for a fundraising campaign is recommended by Scott Anderson, Laurie Contrino, Liz Erickson and Joe. This will cost up to \$68,000 plus incidentals. A pledge of \$10,000 has already been received. The Permanent Trust will probably contribute to this effort.

### **Beloved Community Project Update**

April Rosario reported that the Task Force would like to create a mission statement and a charge to present to the Board. It would also like to be institutionalized as a committee or in some other permanent form and to bring in additional members.

A revised draft of the equity grant program will specify how conferences could join the initiative. This will launch in the off-season with an offer of program training to all conferences. Interested conferences will put together Beloved Community Project teams for a 5-year commitment and

following training will be eligible to participate in the pilot program. Grants will extend for 4 years. The program will start with two or more conferences with the goal of being open to all conferences in the future. Once approved, the program could be operational for the 2025 season. The program needs to be included in the budget process, so it will be presented to the Board at its November meeting.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Joni Abbadessa noted that the first page of the financials included in the packet for this meeting demonstrates that we are in solid financial shape. Page 2 shows that we may be a bit short in revenue. Operating expenses are also slightly under budget. The Annual Fund is expected to meet its goal.

A gratifying 68% of conferees indicated willingness to take on credit card expenses. The possibility of applying this option to conference fees is under investigation.

We are in the process of planning a change to our database, which is a big project.

The Finance Committee talks about keeping our audit staff every year. We are on our fourth year with Ryan as the audit partner. The position of audit senior rotates. The Committee will get into the budgeting process in the fall.

### **Pel Report**

Erin Dickerman grew up in Star Gathering 1 and is a 4<sup>th</sup> year Pelican. She reported a need among Pelicans to understand the role of the Board versus management. This was a “summer of sickness.” Mold was an issue, one that is not new. There is a lot of interest in the coming renovations of the Underworld and Pelicans would like more say about what will be done in their work areas. There was less talk about wages this year.

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 on Appointments recommends that the Board appoint Jeff Emmons to a second 3-year term on the Strategic Facilities Planning Committee, Nina Peluso to a second 3-year term on the Committee on Appointments, and Steve Parr and Nancy Miller as co-chairs of the Committee on Appointments.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

VOTED to make the recommended appointments.

Lucia also reported on the CEO's appointments of Rebecca Emerson and Theresa St. John-Siegal to the Island Heritage and Artifacts Committee and Dan Slothower to the Outreach and Engagement Committee, as recommended by the Committee on Appointments.

### **Actions Stemming From the Retreat**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

VOTED to direct the CEO to sign an agreement with SRG to conduct a feasibility study for a comprehensive fundraising campaign as presented to the campaign working group.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board

VOTED to adjourn the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

All votes were unanimous.

Submitted by

Arlyn Weeks, Clerk.