

AS1 Annual Governing Council Meeting

9/25/21–2 pm EST–via Zoom

Present: Hal Basdekis, Val Basdekis, Cathy Becker Bertasi, Elissa Best, Estelle Best, John Best, Katy Biron, Bart Bouricious, Andrew Bristol, April Castoldi, Ray Castoldi, Joy Close, Debby Cohen, Stafford Cohen, Stan Corfman, Kim Corfman, Barb Denno, Ann Etter, Bill Gimpel, Lisa Gresser, Jane Griffiths, Connie Lentz, Jeff Loewer, Jill Loewer, Dug Miller, Scotia Miller, Susan O’Loughlin, David Osgood, Carla Osgood, Pam Pierce, Philip Pierce, Laurie Powsner, Shelley Powsner, Gabrielle Prochaska, Janice Prochaska, Steve Skrovan, Ben Soule, Annie Stewart, Dale Stewart, Keith Stewart, Scottie Stewart, Deb Walton, Tom Walton, Joe Watts, Deb Weiner Soule, Lois Williams, Louise Williams, David Yermack

Call to Order – (Keith Knox)

Opening Words – (Nancy Wood)

Milestones

Consent Agenda/Acceptance of Reports A – G

Approval of Oct 2020 and June 2021 minutes (Katy Biron) – [A – Governing Council Annual Meeting — October 24, 2020](#), [B – Governing Council on-island Meeting — June 23, 2021](#)

Registration (Susan O’Loughlin) – [C – 2021 Registrar’s Report](#)

2021 Chairs’ Report (Ann Etter, Lisa Gresser, Cathy Bertasi) – [D – 2021 Chairs’ Report](#)

2022 Chairs’ Report (Jeff and Jill Loewer) – [E – 2022 Chairs’ Status Report](#)

Star Island Corporation Report (Jeff Loewer) – [F – 2021 Star Island Corporation Report](#)

Star Island Annual Fund update (Cory Easter) – [G – 2021 Annual Fund Progress Report](#)

Council of Conferences Report (Louise Williams) – [H – 2021 Council of Conferences Report](#)

Conference and Leadership Evaluations (Keith Knox) – [I – 2021 Evaluations](#)

Motion to approve all, seconded, no one added discussion points.

Proposal for 2022 Annual Governing Council Meeting (Keith Knox) – [J – Responses to Questionnaire](#)

Keith proposed idea of holding next year’s Annual Governing Meeting on Star Island—discussion to occur after Joe Watts updates us.

Star Island Status and Future Plans (Joe Watts)

Joe gave thanks to ASI folks for all the work they did this year. Key points/updates:

- Annual Fund lagging a bit behind last year’s contributions at this time
- Strategic resolution passed a year ago—link on website—those goals are still important
- ASI numbers were lower than hoped in 2021, but overall the conference went well
- No known conferee cases of COVID over the whole 2021 season, vaccination rate close to 100%

- Next year (2022)—probably no gap nights between conferences, but may move to a Sunday to Sunday conference—will work better with boats, conferees can leave the island a little later in the morning
- Planning budget for 2022 is challenging, not sure how many bed nights to estimate; not sure whether vaccines will be mandated for staff/conferees
- Overall 2300 guests this year—usually 4500
- Things that are likely here to stay: outdoor dining; fewer Pels (more than this year, but not as many as past years. Fewer staff means that they can get better housing, better wages); fire & water orientation right off the boat; modified luggage service
- Discussion of cleanliness on island; several conferees indicated that their rooms and some public spaces did not meet their expectations upon arrival and during the week. Joe noted that the expectation was that rooms would be clean at the start of the week and it sounds like that was not met. He noted that in the future they will likely continue to focus on cleaning of public spaces during the week.

Break

Highlights of the 2021 Conference (Cathy Bertasi, Ann Etter, Lisa Gresser)

Conference was very successful, even with fewer folks than expected, and had far fewer restrictions than expected. Chairs briefly went through their submitted report with the group.

2022 Conference Planning Status (Jeff and Jill Loewer)

Speaker will be Dan Post Senning, of the Emily Post Institute. Details in report. Nancy Wood will be minister of the week. Focus will be on ASI as a community and activities will have that in mind.

Ratify Actions of Executive Committee, Oct 2020 to Oct 2021 – [K – 2021 Actions by Executive Committee](#)

Executive Council sometimes takes actions that are later ratified, due to timing issues. This year that included the decision to refund conference fees up until the start of the conference. Motion made to ratify, motion seconded. The SIC also waived usual cancellation policies this year. Some discussion started re: continuing this policy this year and that will need to be discussed in the future. Vote taken, approved by all.

Executive Committee Recommended Bylaws Change – [L – Proposed Bylaws Change](#)

Bylaw change made to clarify that the terms for acting chairs should continue until the Annual Governing Meeting after the conference, which means there will be some overlap between the terms of the chairs who are leaving and the chairs who are coming in.

Motion approved and seconded. Discussion: comments made in support of change. Vote taken, approved.

Elections – [M – 2021 Nominating Committee Report](#)

Motion made to approve slate; approved. Discussion: no offers. Vote taken, slate approved

Treasurer's report and Budget (David Yermack) – [N – 2021 Treasurer's Report](#)

2021 Budget turned out better than expected. Expected to lose about \$7000, ended up being closer to \$4500; but auction raised 13K, so we ended up coming out ahead. David recommended that we set

up the 2022 budget based on the original 2020 budget; hard to know how things will actually pan out in 2022.

Motion made to accept report and recommended actions; seconded. Discussion: clarification of 'unrestricted' line item. These are reserves against future deficits. Vote taken, approved.

Discussion of In-person 2022 Annual Meeting

- Would provide funding to the island
- Not as central a location, may be further for some to travel. On the flip side, for folks who are already traveling, they may rather do the trip if they can go on the island
- Logistics of getting there may not be worth it for a 2 night conference.
- September weather is questionable (increased risk of cancellation/disruption)
- May be hard to take time for the actual meeting while on the island; folks want to use their time in other ways
- Could it be timed around the 'Starry Night' event? –No as that is usually in November
- Could it be done right before or after the conference? That would be more of a continuation of the July meeting rather than our other off island meeting. Bylaws require one meeting on island, and one additional meeting at another point in the year.
- Cost—might be around \$350 per person, 2 nights, shared room. Double room at The Guest House was \$307/person for 2 nights/shared room. Single occupancy would have been \$401.
- Remote meetings offer a lot of advantages with zero cost, so we may still want to meet virtually. There are options to do the actual meeting via Zoom with some folks in person, as gathering in person offers opportunities to connect
- Deb Walton, Deb Weiner Soule & Louise Williams have spent a lot of time looking for alternate sites in the past, without much success
- Another option might be hybrid get-togethers, with folks gathered in homes or other places by region, and attending the meeting virtually while they are together

Closing Words (Deb Weiner Soule)

Minutes submitted by Katy Biron