

THE TRUST FOR GOVERNORS ISLAND

Please note that following the last board meeting, the court reporter who had taken minutes had her equipment and her transcript stolen in a robbery. There is no transcript of the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF
GOVERNORS ISLAND CORPORATION d/b/a
THE TRUST FOR GOVERNORS ISLAND
MARCH 9, 2015

A meeting of the Board of Directors of Governors Island Corporation d/b/a The Trust for Governors Island (“The Trust”) was held on Monday, March 9, 2015, at City Hall, New York.

The following members of the Board of Directors of The Trust were present:

Ronay Menschel, Chair
Andrea Bender
Margaret Chin
Alicia Glen
Catherine Hughes
Janno Lieber
Judy Rapfogel
Wendy Schmidt (via telephone, did not count towards quorum)

Also present were staff members of The Trust, members of the Mayor’s Office, and members of the public.

Ronay Menschel, Chairperson of the Board, called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance. Elizabeth Rapuano, Chief of Staff for The Trust, served as Secretary of the duly constituted meeting, at which a quorum was present.

Ms. Menschel began by stating that the agenda consisted of two voting items after which Peter Malinowski from the Billion Oyster Project would give a presentation. Ms. Menschel also welcomed new board member Andrea Bender, noting she is the Chief of Staff for State Senator Daniel Squadron and has held a wide range of positions in the public sector. After these opening remarks, Ms. Menschel commenced with the voting items.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of Directors Held on October 28, 2014

There were no questions or comments. A motion to approve such minutes, as submitted, was made, seconded, and unanimously adopted.

2. Authorization to Enter into a Permit Agreement with Governors Garden Management LLC d/b/a Governors Beach Club for the Operation of an Event Venue on Governors Island

Jon Meyers presented this item.

On December 4, 2014, The Trust for Governors Island issued a Requests for Proposal (RFP) seeking proposals from producers, operators, organizations, or sponsors to host public, ticketed or private events in one of two areas on Governors Island: (i) the West Development Zone or (ii) the parking lot area adjacent to Soissons Dock (known as the “Soissons Site”). The uses of these sites, as outlined in the RFP could include concerts, exhibits, festivals, theatrical events, catered events, restaurants, artistic performances and other types of entertainment, cultural or artistic productions.

Noting that Governors Island is a resource for all New Yorkers, The Trust made clear with this RFP that it sought proposed uses that would complement and be consistent with the public character of the Island. It also sought uses that would cause minimal impacts to Island operations as well as to Manhattan, Brooklyn, and surrounding areas.

The Trust received the responses on February 5 and received two viable responses for the Soissons Site and none for the Western Site. A committee of Trust staff interviewed the two respondents and recommended a permit agreement be executed with Governors Garden Management LLC. Governors Garden Management has operated the Governors Beach Club on Governors Island for the past three years. The permit agreement would cover a period of two years.

Mr. Meyers recommended the Board authorize The Trust to enter into the permit agreement.

Deputy Mayor Glen asked what kinds of organizations or groups responded. Mr. Meyers responded that they were concert promoters.

Ms. Glen further asked if there was a reason The Trust didn't require the winning respondent to guarantee a minimum number of concerts or events, saying that having dynamic activity often on the Island is important. Mr. Meyers stated that part of the rationale was to balance the private ticketed concerts and the Island's public activity. Additionally, Mr. Meyers noted that historically 20 events per season was an above-average number for this outdoor venue.

Catherine Hughes asked if the winning respondent was the same concessionaire which has been operating the Soissons site for the past few years. Mr. Meyers confirmed that while it was a different entity, the principals of the new entity were among the group of individuals involved with the prior operator.

A motion was made to approve the voting item, seconded, and unanimously adopted.

3. Presentation by Peter Malinowski of the Harbor Foundation

Mr. Malinowski introduced himself as the Director of the Billion Oyster project, which operates on Governors Island from the Urban Assembly New York Harbor School, which is a full time tenant on Governors Island.

The Harbor School is the production hub for the project, growing more than 10 million oysters annually. Harbor School students are actively working to restore these oysters to New York Harbor every day.

Mr. Malinowski explained the importance of the oyster to New York Harbor's ecosystem and explained the work that the Harbor School students are doing to grow oysters and seed artificial reefs with them to clean the Harbor's waters.

The Billion Oyster project works closely with Earth Matter, which runs Governors Island's Compost Learning Center, to recycle oyster shells for these reefs. The Oyster Shell Recycling Program turns thousands of oyster shells discarded from restaurants into an ecological resource for the Harbor.

Following the presentation, Ms. Menschel noted what great work the Harbor School was doing on the Island and that we are all looking forward to hearing about more wonderful progress on this project in the future.

4. Remarks from Leslie Koch, Public Comment, and Adjournment

Leslie Koch, President of The Trust, then took a few moments to let the Board know that planning was well underway for the 2015 public season, that more programming organizations than ever before were submitting permit applications and that work is continuing on the capital program. Notably, the Hills are rising and are on schedule to be completed next year. She noted that progress was continuing to be made on all fronts and The Trust is looking forward to welcoming the public to the Island.

Ms. Menschel then asked if any Directors had anything else to add. Hearing nothing, Ms. Menschel asked if any members of the public had any statements or questions. Hearing none, Ms. Menschel thanked all for attending and adjourned the meeting.