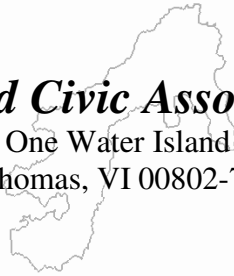


**These minutes, from the 2008 WICA Annual Meeting, are provided for reference at the upcoming 2009 Annual Meeting, which will be held on Saturday, January 17, 2009 at 9:00am (registration at 8:30am) in the Honeymoon Beach Pavilion.**

## *Water Island Civic Association, Inc.*

One Water Island  
St Thomas, VI 00802-7800



Barbara Archibald asked for a delay in the start of the Annual Meeting to allow our Delegate to Congress Donna C. Christiansen to discuss the concerns of Water Island. Recognition of her steadfast and courageous service to the United States Virgin Islands in Congress was expressed. WICA also recognizes the honor that her presence gives to this meeting.

Delegate Christiansen reviewed the ongoing concerns of Water Islanders with the Postal Authority and the lack of timely delivery of mail/packages to the island. Joanne Bohr presented her experience with prescriptions being delayed for delivery even when express mailed. Steve Rampino added his experience with the transportation of packages and the mail carrier as an ongoing concern on the ferry. Bob Blosser confirmed the WICA Directories as being confirmed for delivery this morning but were not brought to Water Island as should have been done by the contracted postal carrier. Jeannine Mydlenski discussed the payment of bills being sent to Puerto Rico then returned to St. Thomas. This delay often results in payments not showing up on time. She stated that she has now turned to electronic payments because she cannot depend on the mail delivering on time anymore. Delegate Christiansen expressed her concerns and frustration at overall mail delivery, but all mail is sent Puerto Rico to be checked for hazardous materials according to the Homeland Security Act. The machine to do this processing was placed in the high traffic postal area of Puerto Rico and so mail must be sent there. She confirmed complaints are coming into her office and they are looking into the overall situation to expedite the delivery of mail while not compromising Security or Safety. Attempts are being undertaken to separate mail from having to go to Puerto Rico that is to be delivered locally. Dr. Christiansen did express a positive attitude surrounding her current administration because of the forward movement of the Energy Bill, Veteran's Health Bill and the Water Resource Bill that would potentially bring \$25 Million into the territory. Health issues and alternative energy resources are being pinpointed as priority due to high fuel costs and the Federal Court finally established and staffed. She thanked WICA and the Water Island Community for their support and looked forward to working with all of us to ensure the growth and continued forward movement of her administration. Tremendous applause and a standing ovation were given to our Delegate.

Barbara Archibald expressed our appreciation to Dr. Christiansen and let her know our commitment to be a vital part of the Virgin Islands is ever ongoing.

## **2008 Annual Meeting Minutes**

On Saturday, January 26, 2008 the Annual Meeting of the Water Island Civic Association was held at the Pavilion "Shaffer Hall" on Honeymoon Beach. The meeting was called to order at 9:36 AM. Quorum confirmed with a majority of 55 votes representing members and proxies received. All 2007 presiding Officers and At-Large Members present except Barry Wherren.

### **President's Opening Remarks**

Barbara Archibald, President, welcomed members and guests to the Annual Meeting. She stated that WICA has been holding its Annual Meetings since 1973 and should now be considered an old and venerable organization, which is still about service to our community, love of our island and the desire to protect and preserve it. Now, more than ever, we need new energy and commitment from everyone. 2007 was an eventful year. We grieved together when Jan Allanach passed away and were saddened to learn of the passing away of Florence Manchester, Lucy Gidley's mother at the age of 100. Barbara asked everyone to take a moment and pray. Barbara also asked for a prayer for Anne Shaffer's speedy return to good health, whose presence is sorely missed and to pray for others in our community who face challenges to their health. Everyone held a moment of silence.

Barbara then reviewed the meetings held with St. Thomas/Water Island Administrator Barbara Petersen and the positive, opened discussions held with the Governor. His visit in November was the highlight of the year. Jim Wilkinson and Chuck Gidley created a fantastic program for him and asked for help with only things we couldn't do for ourselves: Roads, Roadsides and the Transfer site. The Governor seemed to understand Water Island and foresees the development of a small hotel on the island.

Deputy Commissioner R. Tapia of DPNR reassured us that only the very end of the present ferry dock, the "T" part would be taken to Krum Bay. The rest stays as a dinghy dock. He also said that eventually no live-aboard sailboats would be allowed at Honeymoon Beach.

Commissioner Darrell Smalls of Public Works was able to answer several of our concerns. He said that they are considering what to do about our roads and one of the answers would be to allow Water Island to be a golf cart island. Roads could be a lot narrower and not up to government specifications. He also told us that Water Island would be on the regular schedule for roadside clearing, with a minimum of once a month since starting on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Since he is also a member of the Waste Management Board, he will bring to them our issues on the transfer site. Indeed just recently crews have come over. Deputy Fire Chief Darrell George said that they will be over here very quickly in case of fire. WISAR is the first responder and they will hold the fort until they can arrive!

This was otherwise a year of taking stock and making repairs. The Transfer Site road being graded, brush pile being pushed back. The Administrator assisted us with removing the abandoned vehicles off island. Recently the removal of the tower of old car parts. The continued fogging for mosquitoes, purchase of new flagpoles for Phillip's Landing, (affectionately called Joanne's Dock), new carts for groceries, new buoys in the swimming area and the wonderful re-planting at the post office by Roland Smitten. We are thankful for everyone's hard work and commitment to make Water Island. Barbara also stated she would be remiss not to recognize the following people: Wally Henshaw for setting up the sound system today and sweeping the area with Carl Blume, Bob Blosser for your wonderful artful notices, Stuart Butler for fighting the mosquitoes, Linda Gidley for your beautification efforts on behalf of Water Island and all the residents who contribute their time and

efforts to make Water Island unique. I personally wish to thank you for your belief and trust in me to be the President of WICA. Thank you all. Hearty applause was given.

- Arlene P. Dooley presented the minutes for the Annual Meeting of January 20, 2007. Joanne Bohr made a motion to dispense with the reading of the Annual Meeting Minutes, to be approved as written. Seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
- Mercy Blosser presented the Treasurer's Report. Jim Wilkinson made a motion to accept the financial report as submitted. Seconded. Motion passed with unanimous approval.
- Audit: Jackie Coleman, Marion Wilkinson and Peggy Bennett presented a letter of to the Executive committee confirming the 2007 financial records, as presented were accurate and in accordance with standard accounting practices. Letter available upon request. Joanne Bohr moved to accept the Audit as presented. Seconded. Motion passed by unanimous approval.
- Barbara Archibald presented the following Tellers for the 2008 Annual Meeting as John Coleman and Eddy Cheesborough.

### **Committee Reports**

**Government Liaison:** Chair, Joanne Bohr reviewed meeting with the Governor deJongh, Barbara Petersen and Karen McDowell. All seen as positive with ongoing potential. Recognition must be given to Colette Monroe for her assistance, applause given and Senator Louis Hill's ongoing representation for the island. Governor deJongh's visit was a success and special recognition should be given to Jim Wilkinson and Chuck Gidley for the preparation and commitment to ensure resident's concerns were addressed.

**Beautification:** Barbara spoke on behalf of committee chair Jane Wherren. Review of the re-planting of the Post office planter and the ongoing efforts to keep the island clean.

**Outreach Committee:** Barbara Archibald reported on the success for WICA's support of the Senior Movie Night Out as requested by Senator Louis Hill, continuing support of the school program at Benjamin Oliver School, donation to assist the young soccer player struck by a vehicle (who is doing very well at this time) and the donation to the Humane Society on behalf of Jan Allanach. It must be stressed that more effort/help is needed and should be pursued. Some areas being evaluated are the sponsorship by WICA to assist with the education/enrichment of the children of Water Island. Barbara stressed we should always be community minded.

**Membership:** Robert Blosser reported on 98 members paid to date. Letter to be mailed out to have members renew/join. New Directories are ready but delayed due to lack of postal delivery. A request for residents with any corrections or additions please let him know once received.

**Nominating Committee:** Vice-President Stuart Butler presented the 2008 Slate of Officers. Request was made for any nominations from the floor, none received. Kevin Maddock moved to accept the new slate of Officers. Seconded. Vote taken. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

President - Jim Wilkinson  
Vice President - Chuck Gidley  
Secretary - Arlene P. Dooley

Treasurer - Mercy Blosser  
Member-at-Large - Jeannine Mydlenski (serving 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2 years)  
Member-at-Large - Wally Henshaw (serving 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2 years)  
Member-at-Large - George Strickler (2 years)  
Member-at-Large - Tom Archibald (2 years)  
Member-at-Large - Barry Wherren (1 year)

New Officers and At-Large Members seated. Recess called by President Jim Wilkinson at 10:12AM. Meeting resumed at 10:22 AM.
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Jim Wilkinson called the Annual Meeting to order and requested reports from the following committees.

**Land Use:** Chuck Gidley discussed the 3 page summary of the December 2007 Land Use Study and Plan, prepared by the University of the Virgin Islands in response to legislation dedicating 60 acres (of the 200 acres on Water Island owned by the VI Government) to the VI Housing Finance Authority. Study identified areas which would be suitable for housing (form of housing was not specified). Study also contains an economic analysis, several development scenarios, and other factors considered in the analysis. The 2008 Executive Committee will take action to obtain other information which was not contained in the Study. Land Use Committee will meet quarterly and will report results on the WICA web site. A complete copy of the Study may be obtained at <http://cdc.uvi.edu/Water%20Island/Home.htm>. Email Chuck Gidley ([chuckgidley@hotmail.com](mailto:chuckgidley@hotmail.com)) if you have any ideas or questions, etc.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Jim Wilkinson informed the members of a meeting with the Governor and letter of intent given to the Commissioner of Parks & Recreation, St. Clair Williams by local business owner Steve Vasaturo, owner of Deliver It located in Crown Bay, in providing tours and initiating the use of Water Taxis. No formal proposal received by the Governor at this time. The name of Pirate Harbor Tours would provide transportation of tourists from the Crown Bay cruise ship vessel dock to several locations. A special tour would be given as a package to the cruise ship tourist (for a fee) to visit these areas with impact of up to 500 people. Locations being evaluated are Hassell Island, St. Thomas and Water Island. He is offering to rebuild the dock at Honeymoon Beach, build bathrooms and rebuild the Pavilion.

Commissioner St. Clair Williams of Parks & Recreation toured Water Island with him to see what his intentions covered. His response to inquiries in reference to this visit and the meeting of Steve Vasaturo were positively received by Governor deJongh. Jackie Coleman opened discussion on re-presenting the original proposal by WICA to manage the Beach. Joanne Bohr stressed that nothing could be undertaken by any office if a lease is pursued by Steve Vasaturo. By law it would have to be an open bidding process by any one interested in the lease. At this time the vendors on the beach are listed under MOU's, Memorandum of Understanding. Any lease of the facilities or Beach must go through Property and Procurement and the involvement of the Senate. Mrs. Michaels requested the motion to have WICA represent its members to act on their behalf as a voice to the Governor. Karen Conseco stressed that the law for development must be followed and any action by any individual is filed with DPNR and open for review at all times. It was stressed that Steve Vasaturo is very well prepared for his endeavor and any reaction we have is delayed due to the lack of notice by him in not meeting with the residents of Water Island but only with a few individuals. Barbara Archibald

requested review of the impact from the standpoint of the natural environment and that it was overburdened at this time. The involvement of the Environmental Protection Agency should be pursued. Tewa requested a motion to hire an attorney immediately on retainer to research/pursue the preparation of a legal defense for the proposed action by Steve Vasaturo. Barbara Archibald requested members to look at two points: 1. Hire an attorney and put on retainer if needed. 2. Approve EC to review an attorney for representations. Stuart Butler expressed his opinion of the proposal to include Water Island in the upgrading of the experience of the traveler to the US Virgin Island in a more positive light. General consensus of the members was for the need of legal representation to protect Water Island interests.

Jim Wilkinson made a motion to give the EC the authority to hire an attorney to work in the best interest of the Water Island Community and WICA members on the ongoing development concerns on Water Island. Seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

**WICA Web site:** Jim Wilkinson presented the new WICA website of [www.WaterIslandWICA.com](http://www.WaterIslandWICA.com). This website can be accessed by anyone, but member information such as the directory will be only available to the paid members of WICA.

**Fuel:** Stuart Butler informed members that Caribbean Petroleum will deliver gasoline/diesel to the island in the tank truck (small). Members unanimously agreed on the need for this type of service. It is estimated it would cost about .50 cents per gallon more than fuel at Crown Bay. It was suggested that delivery would be on the first Saturday of every month, at the possible location of the Deep Water Dock. He also has mosquito pucks if needed by residents.

**Flashing Buoys:** Stuart Butler opened a discussion on the placement of flashing buoys at the entrance of Flamingo Bay, and the channel into the marina, which would provide nighttime safety to boaters entering into the deep water dock area. Joanne Bohr made a motion to accept Stuart's proposal to place the flashing buoys for safety when navigating the entrance to Flamingo Bay/Deepwater Dock area not to exceed \$2,000.00. Seconded. Motion passed by unanimous approval.

**Abandoned Vehicles:** Jim Wilkinson reviewed that even though cars were removed from island there are still numerous abandoned vehicles left. It is understood that the future removal will incur a cost to the owner.

**Membership Actions:** Joanne Bohr made a motion to have the dues for the Treasurer and Secretary membership be paid for the year of 2008 by WICA. Seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Joanne Bohr opened discussion of the need of WICA to have a computer at the disposal of the seated Secretary. Joanne made a motion to purchase a computer for the WICA Secretary not to exceed \$1,500.00. Seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

**Committee Chairs:** Jim Wilkinson reviewed the following committees and the head of each. Anyone interested in assisting the committee please contact the chair and let them know.

**Membership** - Bob Blosser, Chair

**Government Liaison Committee** - Joanne Bohr, Chair

**Land Use Committee** - Chuck Gidley, Chair

**Community Relations Committee** - Barbara Archibald, Chair

**Security Committee** - Joe Mancino, Chair

**Roads/Roadsides Committee** - Barry Wherren, Chair

**Nominating Committee - Chuck Gidley, VP**  
**Beautification/Beach Committee - Jane Wherren, Chair**

**2008 Budget Proposed:** Mercy Blosser presented the 2008 proposed budget. Barbara Archibald requested to review the amount for the Outreach and increase it to \$4,000.00. Steve Rampino challenged other Vendors to match his \$3,500.00 donation for the Beach maintenance. Hearty applause given. Discussion ensued over the allocation of funds to the Roads/Docks in relation to the overall expenditure previously undertaken. The availability of funds from the Federal Government versus VI Government would impact the use of these funds. Federal funds only cover the road from Phillip's landing to the road above Honeymoon Beach to the Deep Water Dock. Dependence on Auction funds are not to be done since it is not considered a source of revenue for the Budget. Its inception was the raising of monies for the roads but has changed over time to be supportive of causes such as Red Cross, WISAR and other non-profit entities.

Barbara Archibald made a motion to increase the Budget line item under Miscellaneous to \$10,000.00. Seconded. Motion pass by majority.

Barbara Archibald made a motion to increase the Budget line item under Outreach to \$4,500.00. Seconded. Motion passes by majority.

Tony Marshall made a motion to decrease the Budget line item under Roads/Docks to \$10,000.00. Seconded. Motion passes by majority.

Jim Wilkinson made a motion to accept the proposed budget as amended. Seconded. Hand vote taken, passes with majority.

**Nominating Committee: WICA** Jim Wilkinson requested volunteers to be on the nominating committee for the 2009 Executive Committee. Nominations were taken from the floor. Tellers handed out index cards to put two names for the nominating committee, with Chuck Gidley as chair.

As the hand written vote was tallied, Tony Marshall announced the meeting of ROMEO every Wednesday at Heidi's Honeymoon Grill. Numerous requests for the meaning were given (Retired Old Men Eating Out). Mercy announced the upcoming, fantastic Auction and showed one item which was a beautiful tapestry of Water Island in detail. The auction is to take place on February 16, 2008 starting at 10:00AM. Wally Henshaw announced the need for residents to continue to control their animals.

Tellers announced the vote, winners: Sue Bubb and Jackie Coleman to be on the nominating committee.

Arlene P. Dooley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded, vote taken: unanimous approval.

Meeting adjourned at 12:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Unapproved 2008 Annual Meeting Minutes  
Arlene P. Dooley  
Secretary