



Decision List BC Meeting December 18, 2024

Subtitle	Weekly BC Meeting
Date	12/18/2024
Time	9:00 – 12:00
Location	Courtroom
Chair	Shamara Nicholson
Attendees	Shamara Nicholson and Bruce Zagers
Absentees	Eviton Heyliger and Jonathan Johnson

1.0.0 Welcome

2.0.0 Minutes

Decision:
Approved

3.0.0 Discussion Papers

3.0.1 Annual Firework Display

The Community Development & Culture Department would like to inform the BC about the planning of the End of Year Firework display, and would like to ask for approval of the suggested date and allocation of budget for the event.

The Community Development and Culture Department is pleased to announce that it will now host the annual end-of-year fireworks display. This year's event is scheduled as follows:

Date: Saturday, December 28th
Time: 7:30pm
Location: Lower Hell's Gate

This annual event is dedicated to giving back to the community by providing families with the opportunity to experience a fireworks display. It is especially meaningful for those who may not have the chance to enjoy such celebrations on New Year's Eve.



The fireworks display will be managed and executed by Saba Chinese Restaurant, a long-standing partner in delivering this event

Additional Donation: Satel N.V. will contribute \$800, which will be sent directly to the Saba Chinese Restaurant's account to support the event.

Decision:

Approved.

3.0.4 Finalization bounty period

Since early 2022, a bounty period has been ongoing for the goat control project, with the aim to reduce the roaming goat population. Over the past three years, around 5,500 goats have been culled, the majority of which were removed by local bounty hunters. As the project has moved to a new phase, with rapid removal of the remaining goat population by invasive species experts, there is no longer a need to keep the bounty period in place. It is therefore advised to end the bounty period. A next mission with the invasive species experts is being prepared for February and March 2025. It is advised to end the bounty period before that mission starts, on January 31st.

Decision:

Approved

3.0.5 Funding In Nature Training

The department of HR has provided each department with an annual amount of \$6,000 for training. It is requested that this amount for PPB be utilized for the Professional Certificate on Finance for Nature. This certificate is designed to provide professionals from all backgrounds and sectors with research-informed and practice-infused skills required to navigate the broad spectrum of the finance-nature ecosystem. This is an online course given by the IUCN Academy, which will be especially beneficial for policy advisors and project leaders of NEPP.

Decision:

Approved



3.0.6

Ground water study

To get further insight in the wastewater situation and the impact on ground and sea water, a groundwater study needs to be performed. The overarching objective of this project is to get a clear understanding of the hydro(geo)logical system of Saba and to estimate the contribution of different contaminant sources.

Decision:

Approved

3.0.7

Mt. Scenery Park Mgmt Subsidy

Attached proposal contains a list of key activities, accompanying budget and deliverables for the management of Mt Scenery Park (Attachment 5). This list was based on earlier discussions with SCF and drafts of plans that SCF had submitted earlier. A subsidy letter and cover letter were drafted based on this overview (Attachment 6 and 7).

The deadline for the subsidy 'ondersteuning beheer natuurparken' is December 31st 2024. It is therefore advised to transfer \$90,000 of the requested subsidy to SCF in once this year.

Decision:

Approved

3.0.9

Proposal Reimpact Studio climate plan development Saba

The Public Entity Saba (PES) aims to develop a climate plan to improve Saba's self-sufficiency in order to prepare it for the impacts of climate change. Developing such a plan is something new for the PES and its climate team. Assistance is, therefore, needed. A proposal has been sent to the Ministry of Climate Policy and Green Growth (KGG) for funding to develop the climate plan, an action agenda and an information campaign. The funds are expected to be received before yearend. This proposal includes the costs to hire a consultant to help the PES write its climate plan and action agenda. Reimpact Studio, a strategic design consultancy, has submitted a proposal for this purpose. It is proposed to hire Reimpact Studio to assist the PES in writing its climate plan, action agenda and the public launch thereof.

Decision:



Approved

3.1.0 Subsidy compensation Covid losses SCF

In 2020 the Public Entity Saba received a special grant for the management of the nature parks and the execution of important parts of the Nature and Environment Policy Plan (NEPP) and the resulting implementation agenda Saba, as well as a compensation for the loss of income for the Saba Conservation Foundation (SCF) during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The deadline for the use of the subsidy was February 1st, 2022. Part of the subsidy was transferred to SCF in 2021 to cover for the loss of income due to Covid-19 in 2020. In February 2023 a request was sent to the ministry to use the remainder of the subsidy for specific nature-related purposes. Recently the ministry replied with a positive answer to this request. Part of the remaining amount is allocated to cover income losses for SCF in 2021 and 2022.

Decision:

Approved

3.1.1 Subsidy request OYOHF for maintenance of PES-owned homes

The Own Your Own Home Foundation (OYOHF) has requested additional subsidy for the year 2024 to cover maintenance expenditure to homes owned by the Public Entity (PES) and their living environment.

The Public Entity owns 16 social homes, which are managed by OYOHF. OYOHF also manages social homes owned by Bazalt Wonen (42 homes), as well as the 9 homes in their ownership.

OYOHF receives an annual Verhuurderssubsidie from the Ministry of Housing and Spatial Planning to keep rents low. In addition, the Public Entity provides a subsidy to cover the salary of the director. OYOHF also receives income from rent.

Costs for maintenance of PES homes exceeded the income from subsidies and rent for 2024. As of this year, OYOHF separately started charging Bazalt Wonen for maintenance costs that exceed the normal minor maintenance for their properties. OYOHF now also seeks support from



PES to cover the additional maintenance costs for the properties owned by PES to cover the financial deficit.

It is suggested to approve the subsidy for an amount of 36,000 USD as a one-time subsidy as the costs relate to the maintenance of properties owned by the Public Entity, and as OYOHF operates at a loss.

Work is ongoing between PES, OYOHF and Bazalt Wonen to come to structural solutions for the ownership, maintenance and management of social homes on Saba.

Decision:

Approved

3.1.2

Subsidy SFPCA

The SFPCA submitted a for a \$10,000 subsidy for 2024 (Attachment 1). The funds will cover the costs for, among other things, the ongoing spay and neuter program, the chipping and registration program, removal and adoption of stray cats, and care for surrendered pets.

The organization's funds are supplemented with the collection of pet registration fees.

Decision:

Approved

3.1.3

Tourism Tradeshows Q1 2025

For the tourism industry, most tradeshows take place first quarter of each year. For Q1 2025 we have chosen the below, these are in partnership with the Statia Tourism Board, St. Kitts and St. Maarten Tourism Boards, and in coordination with USP PR Firm and Diamond PR Firm. Having Saba participate in these consumer tradeshows helps by creating exposure and destination awareness. The planning also helps on island partners prepare for any advertising material or packages or join in person at the shows. These shows have been selected for Q1 2025 as they have proved to be the most effective and reflect the source markets we should be targeting by our tourism master plan.

We will not participate at the vakantie beurs this year, most islands are not attending and it's very expensive, we will try out the Bijzondere



Reizen Beurs this time in collaboration with ABC Travel that has packages with on-island partners.

– **New:** Bijzondere Reizen Beurs (Netherlands): **Jan 6, 2025** represented by USP PR & Marketing in collaboration with ABC travel.

– IMM (Media marketplace New York**): **Jan 24–23, 2025**

– Travel & Adventure Show:
o New York: **Jan 25–26, 2025**

– Toronto Outdoor Adventure Show: **Feb 21–23, 2025**

– Regatta SXM: **March 8–9, 2025**

– Dema Dive Show (Orlando) in November 2025 the booth needs to be paid by end of January 2025.

Decision:

Approved

4.0.0 Formalities

5.0.0 Incoming pieces/request (on paper)

6.0.0 Announcements

1. Acting Governor Nicholson
2. Commissioner Zagers
3. Island Secretary Streppel

7.0.0 Signing

8.0.0 Closing