



Zoom Meeting – Wednesday, November 30, 2022@ 4:30 P.M.

MEETING AGENDA

THEME: Annual General Meeting

Call to Order

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Mr. James Schaefer, President

****Election****

Nomination of Officers:

Position: Secretary

Position: Treasurer

Position: Vice President

Position: President

Position: Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Introduction of the 2022/2023 Board of Directors

Year-End Report

Mr. James Schaefer, President

Financial Report

Mr. Jarret Thompson, Treasurer

Adjournment



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the American Chamber of Commerce in The Bahamas
November 30, 2022 via Zoom @4:30pm**

Present: Greg Ebelhar, Dan Romence, James Schaefer, Jarret Thompson, Doug Cowper, Craig Simms, Manuel Ruiz, Jeremy Cafferria; and Katushka McIntoch (GBCC)

The meeting was called to order @4:47pm by James Schaefer.

The purpose of the Meeting was to re-elect a Board of Directors for the two years term and Discuss Goals and Objectives for 2023.

James thanked everyone for attending and opened by putting forth the re-election of the current board members for a second two-year term. This was seconded by Manuel Ruiz. James then continued with an update of the past year's activities. He described the rapport with the US Embassy is much improved as compared with previous years. The main goal for the prior year was building up the membership of AMCHAM Bahamas. One of the other goals was to engage the Bahamian government on the subject of the 'Ease of Doing Business'. AMCHAM Bahamas wanted to do this in collaboration with the Bahamian Chamber of Commerce but did not get the timely response needed to achieve this goal this year. It has been agreed by the board and the US Embassy that AMCHAM Bahamas will proceed with this goal in the first quarter of 2023 without the Bahamian Chamber of Commerce. An 'Ease of Doing Business' Summit will be held at Baha Mar. There is interest from persons from US government wanting to be involved in the summit. James also noted that he was working with a US Chamber of Commerce to put on a virtual event to host an 'All Call-In' for any companies interested in investing in the Bahamas, to take place in the second quarter of 2023. Invitations would be sent out to Ministers of the Bahamian government and to the US Embassy representative to tap into their network of contacts. Another event in the planning for 2023, is with the Black and Global Business Network who has reached out to the US Embassy. This group of executives are interested in doing a reverse trade mission. The mission would be two-fold, where Bahamian counter parts would be brought over to US cities along with representatives from AMCHAM Bahamas and secondly, AMCHAM Bahamas would host an event in Nassau and Freeport for the executives from the Black and Global Business Network.

Doug Cowper continued to describe the difficulties in engaging with the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and the Bahamas Employers Confederation in setting up the summit for the 'Ease of Doing Business' in the Bahamas. Based on these difficulties, the AMCHAM Bahamas board has decided to move forward with or without the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce. The list of invitees for this event include representatives from AMCHAM Bahamas, the US Embassy, the Senior Vice-President of global affairs for CBS Viacom, Ms. DeDe Lea, and Mr. Sandy Sands of Baha Mar representing the Hotel Association. There is also support from Mr. Simon Wilson the Financial Secretary, Ms. Felica Hanna the Bahamas Director of Investments, and Mr. Wade Watson from the Prime Minister's Office. Five topics have been chosen to focus on in this summit and these topics would be posted to the participants at least a month in advance of the summit to facilitate meaningful discussion, solutions, and recommendations. The drive for new members continues with commitments from the Nassau Ecology Park, Baha Mar, Bahamas Wholesalers Association, and Cable Bahamas. Efforts continue with Atlantis, The Sterling Group, and the Nassau Container Port.

Jarret Thompson reported that the beginning financial balance for the year was \$4,760.00 with an aggregate sum of \$5,000.00 collected in dues for the period up to November 2022. \$3,298.00 was disbursed for operation expenses. Currently the on hand balance is \$6,462.00.

Returning Board of Directors are Craig Simms (Secretary); Jarret Thompson (Treasurer); Doug Cowper (Vice President); Jim Schaefer (President); and Dan Romence (Chief Executive Officer). Robert Jensen was appointed as an Advisor and the US Embassy as a non-voting member.

The Meeting was adjourned @5:17pm.