



**SINT EUSTATIUS  
CARIBISCH NEDERLAND**

**Decision and commitment list public meeting Island Council, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 09.30 am at the V.A. Lopes Legislative Hall**

Present:

Ms.M.A.U Francis, chairlady (Government Commissioner)

R. Merkman R. Leerdam, N. Sneek, F. Spanner, C. van Putten, Island Council members

E. Jami, Deputy Registrar

Also present: - Deputy Government Commissioner Toet, Monique Brown (Dep. Legal Affairs)

Absent:

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Nr.	Agenda point	Decisions and commitments
1.	Opening	The meeting started at 09.40 am
2.	Announcements	- No Announcements
3.	Setting of the agenda	- Excavation Golden Rock dig added to the agenda
4.	Ratification decision and commitment list(s) August 12, 2021	- Ratified
5.	List of incoming documents	- Ratified
6.	List of motions	- Ratified - Government Commissioner: The Executive Council will forward this week, an update on all the motions that are on the table that were presented to the public entity that were adopted by the Island Council throughout this past year.
7.	List of written questions	- Ratified
8.	VERORDERINGEN HUUR COMMISSIE EN HUURPRIJZEN VERORDENING EN VERHUURSUBSIDIE VERORDENIN	- R. Merkman: The only thing that I'm concerned about is when I look at this proposal the fact that looking at the document and looking at other information that I am understanding that only I know has three units on Statia. So, I would like some clarity pertaining to that and also looking at information I see that in 2019, the former government



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		<p>Commissioner Franco signed an agreement. I've requested that agreement, and I haven't received it. We know that this document is also necessary for the continued development of the Stasia Housing Foundation where it is said that 15 Social homes revealed on a yearly basis, and there will be an increase in the budget of the Stasia Housing Foundation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- R. Leerdam: My colleague already said a mouthful on this, I just don't want to repeat what he said but I think we share very similar sentiments. My main question is once this ordinance is adopted, does this mean that Stasia Housing Foundation comes into play? Based on the answer, I will know how I will go to the voting of this discussion. Thank you.</li><li>- C. van Putten: First of all, I need to apologize to the public, because I used a word on this floor that is basically unbecoming or honorable to the member of this house. I want to know what immediate plans government has pertaining to making the Housing Foundation a more robust foundation.</li><li>- F. Spanner: Madam Chair, the questions I had, were all answered in the Central Committee. I don't have any questions for the commissioners.</li><li>- K. Sneek: The two ordinances, find a basis in the law for the rental home market in the Netherlands. This law dates from 2017. I still want to reiterate a bit about how it came about the conference's leading to this law to take place in the years 2014</li></ul>
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		<p>2015 and 2016. The question may arise, did Statia take part of this conferences, and if so, did the government at the time respond? And why did they accept not to be part of the conferences? If the Island Council does not approved these ordinances, this may have far reaching consequences were a concern of the introduction of the rental subsidy, the financial position of the Housing Foundation, the renovation of the gold rock homes, and the construction of much needed new social homes.</p> <p>- Government Commissioner: I will give the first attempt to answer the questions, after which the Deputy Government Commissioner will follow.</p> <p>When it comes to the questions that were posed by councilman, Merkman. There are three units in Golden Rock that fall on a pilot project. The pilot project that was entered into on March 29, 2020, and the idea of the pilot was to give an illustration of what the renovations could look like. The second pilot was meant to give an illustration that should be entered this agreement fully with the housing cooperation of the Netherlands, that this is what social housing would look like in the future.</p>
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		<p>We have had a rental tribunal committee in Stasia for several years. And we know how that has turned out. It has not worked. And I and I don't believe any of you know the reason why it has not worked. I do believe in the process going forward. This ordinance gives an opportunity For Statia to get the much needed support and input on how to actually be able to function optimally, as a rental tribunal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- R. Leerdam: I want to propose that we send this ordinance back to the Central Committee, until we get full clarity on to the covenant, and these ongoing negotiations with Bazal and the Statia Housing Foundation.</li><li>- F. Spanner: It was asked in the Central Committee by the Chairman, if it was ready to come to the Island Council and the members of the Central Committee agreed that it is ready to come to the Island Council. So, I'm surprised to hear council lady Leerdam asking to send it back to the central committee where we all agreed that it was ready to come to the Island Council.</li></ul> <p>Government Commissioner: according to article 14 of the Rules of Order Central Committee: 1. If an island council committee issues an advice to the island council, the members will decide on the content of the advice on the proposal of the island council committee chairman.</p>
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		<p>2.The advice will include the positions of all factions and the island council committee members who are not island council members.</p> <p>3.The island council committee chairman sends the advice referred to in the third paragraph to the island council. The presidium ensures that the advice is placed on the agenda of a meeting of the island council as soon as possible.</p> <p>4. No votes take place in a meeting, with the exception of votes on secrecy and in connection with order.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The Ordinance voting:</li><li>- R. Merkman: against</li><li>- R. Leerdam: against</li><li>- C. van Putten: against</li><li>- F. Spanner: favor</li><li>- K. Sneek: favor</li></ul> <p>The Ordinance is rejected.</p>
9.	REVISITED ORDINANCE COURT OF AUDITS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Government Commissioner: postpone the ordinance for further inspection and I will get back to the Island Council as soon as possible. This agenda point will be discussed on the Island Council meeting of 14 October.</li></ul>
10.	Excavation Golden Rock dig	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- C. van Putten: There was a public outcry regarding Excavation Golden Rock. What is the current situation regarding the remains that were found? What are the intentions as far as the executive council concerns? Are there any further discussions with SECAR?</li></ul>



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- R. Merkman: I do not want to go all political on this matter: My only question is: what are we going to do moving forward with the remains that were excavated?</li><li>- F. Spanner: I remember you mentioned in the Central Committee that a committee was formed. How far is the committee with their findings?</li><li>- K. Sneek: I await your answer on the questions that were asked and will yield my time.</li> <li>- Government Commissioner: the current situation is that we have all been the site, including the members of the Island Council of two occasions. And the schools have been to the location. The outcry of the public is understandable. This happened because of NOS crew came and filmed the burial site and zoomed in to the remains in the grave. This brought an outcry of diaspora of Statia. During the Emancipation Day, one person asked to stop the excavation after concerns were raised. So, during the recess, it was decided to stop the excavation and activities. Further discussion with SECAR is that the project is suspended.</li> <li>- R. Merkman, C. van Putten en N. Sneek are in favor to let R. Leerdam to speak, since R. Leerdam missed the first round of speaking term (Rules of Order art. 20, sub 6 and sub. 7).</li></ul>
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11.	MOTION REGARDING SOCIAL MINIMUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- K. Sneek: We have brought this point several times to the attention of the national government. We need to bring this subject up to the attention of the national government as much as possible. Bonaire passed this motion. Today we will pass this motion. And I hope that Saba will pass this motion. Speaking with one voice as the three Island Councils.</li><li>- R. Merkman: I want to be very short on this matter. I will support this motion.</li><li>- R. Leerdam: I also will be short on this topic. On 10-10-10, I remember everyone thought that Holland is here and we will finally be relieved of this burden of social minimum. But what we got was taxation without representation.</li><li>- C. van Putten: I will not support this motion. I respect the standpoint of my leader and deputy. But I know the Dutch for 40 years. It is pointless to vote for a motion the Dutch already know.</li><li>- F. Spanner: We agreed in presidium this point was to be a "hamerstuk". I have no further question. The motion speaks for itself.</li><li>- - The Motion voting:</li><li>- R. Merkman: favor</li><li>- R. Leerdam: favor</li><li>- C. van Putten: against</li><li>- F. Spanner: favor</li><li>- K. Sneek: favor</li></ul>
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11.	Announcements Executive Council and Gov. Com. (art. 49/50 RVO IC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Government Commissioner: The Cabinet continues to hold meetings with hotels, restaurants and events promoters to introduce a policy where they can share in the responsibility to help keep their employees and patrons safe as we go through this pandemic.</li><li>- Protocols will be introduced where during different scenarios business can remain operational. It entails applying the hygiene regulations stricter and staff wearing a facemask depending on the covid situation on the island.</li><li>- The community will be informed when these protocols will go into effect. The target date is end of September. Some businesses places have already started implementing the measures/guidelines as a result of stakeholder meetings held these past weeks.</li><li>- This is to inform the Island Council that in light of the importance to enforce the General Public Ordinance the Public Entity has purchased 2 decibel meters that will measure the level of sound when there are events where loud music is used. The BAVPollers will be trained in the use of the decibel meter in order to enforce on controlling the sound pollution for which there are complaints in several areas of the island.</li></ul>
12.	Closing at	- 3.15pm



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Adopted on .....2021.

The Deputy Registrar,  
E. Jami

The chairlady,  
M.A.U. Francis