

SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.
Form PRE 14A
April 15, 2016

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the

Securities Exchange Act of 1934

(Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
 - Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e) (2))
 - Definitive Proxy Statement
 - Definitive Additional Materials
 - Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12
- SEAWORLD ENTERTAINMENT, INC.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if Other Than the Registrant)

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- No fee required.
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(4) Date Filed:

PRELIMINARY PROXY STATEMENT

9205 South Park Center Loop, Suite 400

Orlando, Florida 32819

April __, 2016

Dear Fellow Stockholders:

You are cordially invited to attend the 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc. (the “Annual Meeting”) to be held on Wednesday, June 15, 2016 at 11:00 a.m., Eastern Daylight Time. For your convenience, we are pleased that the Annual Meeting will be a completely virtual meeting, which will be conducted via live audio webcast. You will be able to attend the Annual Meeting online, vote your shares electronically and submit your questions during the Annual Meeting via a live audio webcast by visiting seaworld.onlineshareholdermeeting.com.

As permitted by the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission, we are also pleased to be furnishing our proxy materials to stockholders primarily over the Internet. We believe this process expedites stockholders’ receipt of the materials, lowers the costs of the Annual Meeting and conserves natural resources. We sent a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials on or about April __, 2016 to our stockholders of record at the close of business on April 18, 2016. The notice contains instructions on how to access our Proxy Statement and 2015 Annual Report and vote online. If you would like to receive a printed copy of our proxy materials from us instead of downloading a printable version from the Internet, please follow the instructions for requesting such materials included in the notice.

Your vote is important to us. Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, we strongly urge you to cast your vote promptly. You may vote over the Internet, as well as by telephone or by mail. Please review the instructions on the proxy or voting instruction card regarding each of these voting options.

Thank you for your continued support of SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.

Sincerely,

David F. D’Alessandro

Chairman of the Board of Directors

Joel K. Manby

President and Chief Executive Officer, Director

9205 South Park Center Loop, Suite 400

Orlando, Florida 32819

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

To Be Held on June 15, 2016

Notice is hereby given that the 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc. (the “Annual Meeting”) will be held on Wednesday, June 15, 2016 at 11:00 a.m., Eastern Daylight Time. You can attend the Annual Meeting online, vote your shares electronically and submit your questions during the Annual Meeting, by visiting seaworld.onlineshareholdermeeting.com. You will need to have your 16-Digit Control Number included on your Notice or your proxy card (if you received a printed copy of the proxy materials) to join the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting will be held for the following purposes:

- (1) To elect the three Class III director nominees listed herein.
- (2) To ratify the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for 2016.
- (3) To approve, in a non-binding advisory vote, the compensation paid to the named executive officers.
- (4) To approve a management proposal to amend the Company’s Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to provide for the phased-in declassification of the Board of Directors, beginning at the 2017 annual meeting.
- (5) To determine the advisability of a management proposal to implement majority voting in uncontested director elections.
- (6) To consider such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting and any adjournments or postponements thereof.

Stockholders of record at the close of business on April 18, 2016, are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting. Each stockholder of record is entitled to one vote for each share of common stock held at that time. A list of these stockholders will be open for examination by any stockholder for any purpose germane to the Annual Meeting for a period of 10 days prior to the Annual Meeting at our principal executive offices at 9205 South Park Center Loop, Suite 400, Orlando, Florida 32819, and electronically during the Annual Meeting at seaworld.onlineshareholdermeeting.com when you enter your 16-Digit Control Number.

You have three options for submitting your vote before the Annual Meeting:

- Internet, through computer or mobile device such as a tablet or smartphone;
- Telephone; or
- Mail.

Please vote as soon as possible to record your vote promptly, even if you plan to attend the Annual Meeting via the Internet.

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Annual Meeting to be Held on Wednesday, June 15, 2016: The Proxy Statement and 2015 Annual Report to Stockholders, which includes the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015, are available at www.proxyvote.com.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

G. Anthony (Tony) Taylor

Corporate Secretary

April __, 2016

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>General Information</u>	1
<u>Proposal No. 1 — Election of Directors</u>	5
<u>Nominees for Election to the Board of Directors in 2016</u>	6
<u>The Board of Directors and Certain Governance Matters</u>	9
<u>Director Independence and Independence Determinations</u>	9
<u>Board Structure</u>	9
<u>Board Committees and Meetings</u>	10
<u>Committee Membership</u>	10
<u>Audit Committee</u>	10
<u>Compensation Committee</u>	11
<u>Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee</u>	12
<u>Regulatory and Governmental Affairs Committee</u>	12
<u>Special Committees</u>	13
<u>Oversight of Risk Management</u>	13
<u>Executive Sessions</u>	13
<u>Committee Charters and Corporate Governance Guidelines</u>	13
<u>Code of Conduct</u>	13
<u>Director Nomination Process</u>	14
<u>Communications with the Board</u>	16
<u>Executive Officers of the Company</u>	16
<u>Proposal No. 2—Ratification of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	19
<u>Audit and Non-Audit Fees</u>	19
<u>Proposal No. 3—Non-Binding Vote on Executive Compensation</u>	20
<u>Proposal No. 4—Approval of a Management Proposal to Amend to the Company’s Certificate of Incorporation to Provide for the Phased-In Declassification of the Board of Directors</u>	21
<u>Proposal No. 5— Management Proposal to Determine the Advisability of Implementing Majority Voting in Uncontested Director Elections</u>	23
<u>Report of the Audit Committee</u>	24
<u>Equity Compensation Plan Information</u>	25
<u>Report of the Compensation Committee</u>	26
<u>Executive Compensation</u>	27
<u>Ownership of Securities</u>	54
<u>Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance</u>	56
<u>Transactions with Related Persons</u>	57
<u>Stockholder Proposals for the 2017 Annual Meeting</u>	60
<u>Householding of Proxy Materials</u>	60
<u>Other Business</u>	61
<u>Exhibit A</u>	62
<u>Exhibit B</u>	65

9205 South Park Center Loop, Suite 400

Orlando, Florida 32819

PRELIMINARY PROXY STATEMENT

FOR ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

To Be Held on June 15, 2016

General Information

Why am I being provided with these materials?

We have made these proxy materials available to you via the Internet or, upon your request, have delivered printed versions of these proxy materials to you by mail in connection with the solicitation by the Board of Directors (the “Board” or “Board of Directors”) of SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc. (the “Company”) of proxies to be voted at our Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on June 15, 2016 (“Annual Meeting”), and at any postponements or adjournments of the Annual Meeting. Directors, officers and other Company employees also may solicit proxies by telephone or otherwise. Brokers and other nominees will be requested to solicit proxies or authorizations from beneficial owners and will be reimbursed for their reasonable expenses. You are invited to attend the Annual Meeting and vote your shares via the Internet in accordance with the instructions at seaworld.onlineshareholdermeeting.com.

What am I voting on?

There are five proposals scheduled to be voted on at the Annual Meeting:

- Proposal No. 1: Election of the three Class III director nominees listed in this Proxy Statement (the “Nominee Proposal”).
- Proposal No. 2: Ratification of the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for 2016 (the “Ratification Proposal”).
- Proposal No. 3: Approval, in a non-binding advisory vote, of the compensation paid to the named executive officers (the “Say-on-Pay Proposal”).
- Proposal No. 4: Approval of a management proposal to amend the Company’s Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to provide for the phased-in declassification of the Board of Directors, beginning at the 2017 annual meeting (the “Declassification Proposal”).
- Proposal No. 5: A management proposal to determine the advisability of implementing majority voting in uncontested director elections (the “Majority Voting Proposal”).

Who is entitled to vote?

Stockholders as of the close of business on April 18, 2016 (the “Record Date”) may vote at the Annual Meeting. As of that date, there were _____ shares of common stock outstanding. You have one vote for each share of common stock held by you as of the Record Date, including shares:

- Held directly in your name as “stockholder of record” (also referred to as “registered stockholder”);
-

Held for you in an account with a broker, bank or other nominee (shares held in “street name”)—Street name holders generally cannot vote their shares directly and instead must instruct the brokerage firm, bank or nominee how to vote their shares; and

·Held for you by us as restricted shares (whether vested or non-vested) under any of our stock incentive plans.

1

What constitutes a quorum?

The holders of record of a majority of the voting power of the issued and outstanding shares of capital stock entitled to vote must be present in person or represented by proxy to constitute a quorum for the Annual Meeting. Abstentions are counted as present and entitled to vote for purposes of determining a quorum. Shares represented by “broker non-votes” also are counted as present and entitled to vote for purposes of determining a quorum. However, as described below under “How are votes counted?”, if you hold your shares in street name and do not provide voting instructions to your broker, your shares will not be voted on any proposal on which your broker does not have discretionary authority to vote (a “broker non-vote”).

What is a “broker non-vote”?

A broker non-vote occurs when shares held by a broker are not voted with respect to a proposal because (1) the broker has not received voting instructions from the stockholder who beneficially owns the shares and (2) the broker lacks the authority to vote the shares at his/her discretion. Under current New York Stock Exchange interpretations that govern broker non-votes, each of the Nominee Proposal, Say-on-Pay Proposal, Declassification Proposal and Majority Voting Proposal are considered non-discretionary matters and a broker will lack the authority to vote shares at his/her discretion on such proposals. The Ratification Proposal is considered a discretionary matter and a broker will be permitted to exercise his/her discretion.

How many votes are required to approve each proposal?

With respect to the election of the Nominee Proposal, all elections of directors will be determined by a plurality of the votes cast in respect of the shares present in person or represented by proxy at the meeting and entitled to vote on the election of directors. A plurality vote requirement means that the three director nominees with the greatest number of votes cast, even if less than a majority, will be elected. There is no cumulative voting.

With respect to the Ratification Proposal, the Say-on-Pay Proposal and the Majority Voting Proposal, approval of each proposal requires a vote of the holders of a majority of the voting power of the shares of stock present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote on the proposal.

With respect to the Declassification Proposal, approval of the proposal requires the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 66 2/3% in voting power of the outstanding shares of the Company’s stock entitled to vote on the proposal, voting as a single class.

While the Say-on-Pay Proposal is advisory in nature and non-binding, the Board will review the voting results and expects to take it into consideration when making future decisions regarding executive compensation.

How are votes counted?

With respect to the Nominee Proposal, you may vote “FOR” or “WITHHOLD” with respect to each nominee. Votes that are withheld will be excluded entirely from the vote with respect to the nominee from which they are withheld and will have the same effect as an abstention. Votes that are withheld will not have any effect on the outcome of the election of directors. Broker non-votes will have no effect on the outcome of the Nominee Proposal.

With respect to the Ratification Proposal, you may vote “FOR”, “AGAINST” or “ABSTAIN”. Abstentions will be counted as a vote “AGAINST” the Ratification Proposal.

With respect to the Say-on-Pay Proposal, you may vote “FOR”, “AGAINST” or “ABSTAIN”. Abstentions will be counted as a vote “AGAINST” the Say-on-Pay Proposal. Broker non-votes will have no effect on the outcome of the Say-on-Pay Proposal.

With respect to the Declassification Proposal you may vote “FOR”, “AGAINST” or “ABSTAIN”. Abstentions will be counted as a vote “AGAINST” the Declassification Proposal. Abstentions and “broker non-votes” will have the same effect as votes “AGAINST” this proposal.

With respect to the Majority Voting Proposal, you may vote “FOR”, “AGAINST” or “ABSTAIN”. Abstentions will be counted as a vote “AGAINST” the Majority Voting Proposal. Broker non-votes will have no effect on the outcome of the Say-on-Pay Proposal.

If you just sign and submit your proxy card without voting instructions, your shares will be voted “FOR” each director nominee listed herein and “FOR” the other proposals as recommended by the Board and in accordance with the discretion of the holders of the proxy with respect to any other matters that may be voted upon.

Who will count the vote?

Representatives of Broadridge Investor Communications Services (“Broadridge”) will tabulate the votes, and representatives of Broadridge will act as inspectors of election.

How does the Board recommend that I vote?

Our Board recommends that you vote your shares:

- “FOR” each of the nominees to the Board set forth in this Proxy Statement.
- “FOR” the Ratification Proposal.
- “FOR” the Say-on-Pay Proposal.
- “FOR” the Declassification Proposal.
- “FOR” the Majority Voting Proposal.

How can I attend and vote at the Annual Meeting?

We will be hosting the Annual Meeting live via audio webcast. Any stockholder can attend the Annual Meeting live online at seaworld.onlineshareholdermeeting.com. If you were a stockholder or joint holder as of the Record Date, or you hold a valid proxy for the Annual Meeting, you can vote at the Annual Meeting. A summary of the information you need to attend the Annual Meeting online is provided below:

- Instructions on how to attend and participate via the Internet, including how to demonstrate proof of stock ownership, are posted at seaworld.onlineshareholdermeeting.com;
- Assistance with questions regarding how to attend and participate via the Internet will be provided at seaworld.onlineshareholdermeeting.com on the day of the Annual Meeting;
- Webcast starts at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time;
- Stockholders may vote and submit questions while attending the Annual Meeting via the Internet;
- You will need your 16-Digit Control Number to enter the Annual Meeting; and
- Webcast replay of the Annual Meeting will be available until June 15, 2017.

How can I vote my shares without attending the Annual Meeting?

If you are a stockholder of record, you may vote by granting a proxy. Specifically, you may vote:

- By Internet—If you have Internet access, you may submit your proxy by going to www.proxyvote.com and by following the instructions on how to complete an electronic proxy card. You will need the 16-digit number included on your Notice or your proxy card in order to vote by Internet.
- By Telephone—If you have access to a touch-tone telephone, you may submit your proxy by dialing 1-800-690-6903 and by following the recorded instructions. You will need the 16-digit number included on your Notice or your proxy card in order to vote by telephone.
- By Mail—You may vote by mail by requesting a proxy card from us, indicating your vote by completing, signing and dating the card where indicated and by mailing or otherwise returning the card in the envelope that will be provided to you. You should sign your name exactly as it appears on the proxy card. If you are signing in a representative capacity (for example, as guardian, executor, trustee, custodian, attorney or officer of a corporation), indicate your name and title or capacity.

If you hold your shares in street name, you may also submit voting instructions to your broker, bank or other nominee. In most instances, you will be able to do this over the Internet, by telephone or by mail. Please refer to information from your bank, broker, or other nominee on how to submit voting instructions.

Internet and telephone voting facilities will close at 11:59 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time on June 14, 2016 for the voting of shares held by stockholders of record or held in street name.

3

Mailed proxy cards with respect to shares held of record or in street name must be received no later than June 14, 2016.

What does it mean if I receive more than one Notice on or about the same time?

It generally means you hold shares registered in more than one account. To ensure that all your shares are voted, please sign and return each proxy card or, if you vote by Internet or telephone, vote once for each Notice you receive.

May I change my vote or revoke my proxy?

You may change your vote and revoke your proxy at any time prior to the vote at the Annual Meeting. If you are the stockholder of record, you may change your vote by granting a new proxy bearing a later date (which automatically revokes the earlier proxy) using any of the methods described above (and until the applicable deadline for each method), by providing a written notice of revocation to the Company's Corporate Secretary at SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc., 9205 South Park Center Loop, Suite 400, Orlando, Florida 32819 prior to your shares being voted, or by attending the Annual Meeting via the Internet and voting. Attendance at the meeting via the Internet will not cause your previously granted proxy to be revoked unless you specifically so request. For shares you hold beneficially in street name, you may change your vote by submitting new voting instructions to your broker, trustee or nominee following the instruction it has provided, or, if you have obtained a legal proxy from your broker or nominee giving you the right to vote your shares, by attending the Annual Meeting via the Internet and voting.

Could other matters be decided at the Annual Meeting?

At the date this Proxy Statement went to press, we did not know of any matters to be raised at the Annual Meeting other than those referred to in this Proxy Statement.

If other matters are properly presented at the Annual Meeting for consideration and you are a stockholder of record and have submitted a proxy card, the persons named in your proxy card will have the discretion to vote on those matters for you.

Who will pay for the cost of this proxy solicitation?

We will pay the cost of soliciting proxies. Proxies may be solicited on our behalf by directors, officers or employees (for no additional compensation) in person or by telephone, electronic transmission and facsimile transmission. Brokers and other nominees will be requested to solicit proxies or authorizations from beneficial owners and will be reimbursed for their reasonable expenses.

Proposal No. 1 — Election of Directors

Our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation currently provides for a classified Board of Directors divided into three classes. Joseph P. Baratta, Deborah M. Thomas and Peter F. Wallace constitute a class with a term that expires at this Annual Meeting of Stockholders in 2016 (the “Class III Directors”); David F. D’Alessandro, Joel K. Manby, Judith A. McHale and Ellen O. Tauscher constitute a class with a term that expires at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders in 2017 (the “Class I Directors”); and Ronald Bension, William Gray and Thomas E. Moloney constitute a class with a term that expires at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders in 2018 (the “Class II Directors”).

Since the beginning of fiscal 2015 there were several changes in our Board’s composition. On January 5, 2015, Bruce McEvoy notified the Board of his decision to resign from his position as a member of the Board, effective as of January 15, 2015. The Board elected Thomas Moloney as an independent Class II director of the Company to fill the vacancy created by Mr. McEvoy’s resignation, effective as of January 15, 2015. On April 7, 2015, in connection with the appointment of Joel K. Manby as the Company’s new President and Chief Executive Officer, the size of the Board was increased to ten members and Joel K. Manby was designated as a Class I Director. On February 24, 2016, Joseph P. Baratta notified the Board that he would not stand for re-election to the Board at the 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. On April 13, 2016, Jim Atchison notified the Board of his decision to resign from his position as a member of the Board, effective as of April 15, 2016. The Company is grateful to Messrs. McEvoy, Baratta and Atchison for their years of service on the Board.

In 2015 and 2016, as a part of the governance review, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee conducted an extensive search for qualified director candidates. Based on the results of the search process, on April 13, 2016, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee recommended the appointment of Ronald Bension as an independent Class II director to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. Atchison, effective as of April 15, 2016, and recommended the nomination of Donald C. Robinson for election as a Class III director nominee at the Annual Meeting to fill the vacancy that will result from Mr. Baratta not standing for re-election. On April 13, 2016, the full Board of Directors, upon the recommendation of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, appointed Mr. Bension as an independent Class II director, effective as of April 15, 2016, and considered and nominated the following slate of Class III nominees for a three-year term expiring in 2019: Donald C. Robinson, Deborah M. Thomas and Peter F. Wallace. Action will be taken at the Annual Meeting for the election of these three Class III nominees. Each of the nominees, other than Mr. Robinson, is presently a director of the Company.

As discussed in greater detail in the Declassification Proposal, the Board has recently approved an amendment to our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation (the “Certificate of Incorporation”) to provide for the phased-in declassification of the Board, beginning in 2017, subject to the approval of the stockholders at the Annual Meeting. If the Declassification Proposal is approved by the requisite vote of the stockholders, the directors elected at the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (and each Annual Meeting of Stockholders held thereafter) will be elected for one-year terms, and beginning with the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, the entire Board will be elected on an annual basis.

Unless otherwise instructed, the persons named in the form of proxy card (the “proxyholders”) attached to this proxy statement intend to vote the proxies held by them for the election of Donald C. Robinson, Deborah M. Thomas and Peter F. Wallace. If any of these three nominees ceases to be a candidate for election by the time of the Annual Meeting (a contingency which the Board does not expect to occur), such proxies may be voted by the proxyholders in accordance with the recommendation of the Board.

Nominees for Election to the Board of Directors in 2016

The following information describes the offices held, other business directorships and the class and term of each director nominee. Beneficial ownership of equity securities of the director nominees is shown under “Ownership of Securities” below.

Class III—Nominees for Term Expiring in 2019

Name	Age	Principal Occupation and Other Information
Donald C. Robinson	62	Donald C. Robinson has been nominated by the Board for election as a director at the Annual Meeting. Mr. Robinson currently owns a hospitality consulting firm, Potcake Holdings, LLC, which is involved in a variety of consulting roles. Prior to that, Mr. Robinson served as the President and Chief Operating Officer of All Aboard Florida, the country’s first privately owned intercity passenger rail system that will connect South Florida to Orlando, where he served from March 2012 until December 2014. From February 2006 to September 2012, he served as President of Baha Mar Ltd., a luxury resort company. Previously, Mr. Robinson served in various capacities for The Walt Disney Company from June 1972 to January 2006, including as Group Managing Director and Executive Vice President of Hong Kong Disneyland from 2001 to 2006, as Senior Vice President of Operations at Walt Disney World Operations from 1998 to 2001, as Senior Vice President/Vice President of Walt Disney World Resorts from 1995 to 1998, and as Opening General Manager of Disney’s All-Star Resorts, Walt Disney World, from 1993 to 1995. Mr. Robinson currently serves as a director of Denny's Corporation. Mr. Robinson holds a Bachelor of Science degree in microbiology from the University of Central Florida, and completed coursework through the Master’s in Business Administration program at Rollins College.
Deborah M. Thomas	52	Deborah M. Thomas has been a director of the Company since 2013. Ms. Thomas currently serves as the Chief Financial Officer of Hasbro, Inc. Prior to her appointment in 2009 as Hasbro’s Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Thomas served as Senior Vice President and Head of Corporate Finance for Hasbro from 2007 to 2009. Ms. Thomas also served as Hasbro’s Corporate Controller and has held positions of increasing responsibility since joining Hasbro’s Finance Department in 1998. Prior to joining Hasbro, Ms. Thomas held Assurance positions at KPMG Peat Marwick, LLP from 1986 through 1998, in the United States and in the United Kingdom. Ms. Thomas holds a bachelor’s degree from Providence College, where she currently serves on the President’s Advisory Council, and is a CPA.
Peter F. Wallace	41	Peter F. Wallace has been a director of the Company since 2009. Mr. Wallace is a Senior Managing Director in Blackstone’s Private Equity Group, which he joined in 1997. Mr. Wallace currently serves on the board of directors of Vivint Solar, Inc., and The Michaels Companies, Inc. and also serves on the board of directors of several private companies, including Outerstuff LLC, Service King Collision Repair Centers, APX Group Holdings, Inc. and the Weather Channel Companies. Mr. Wallace was formerly a director of Allied Barton Security Services and GCA Services Group, Inc. Mr. Wallace graduated from Harvard College.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS THAT STOCKHOLDERS VOTE “FOR” THE ELECTION OF EACH OF THE DIRECTOR NOMINEES NAMED ABOVE.

Continuing Members of the Board of Directors

The following information describes the offices held, other business directorships and the class and term of each director whose term continues beyond the Annual Meeting and who is not subject to election this year. Beneficial ownership of equity securities for these directors is also shown under “Ownership of Securities” below.

Class I—Directors Whose Term Expires in 2017

Name	Age	Principal Occupation and Other Information
David F. D’Alessandro	65	David F. D’Alessandro has been the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Company since 2010. Mr. D’Alessandro was named Interim Chief Executive Officer of the Company in January 2015 and served in that capacity until April 2015. He served as Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of John Hancock Financial Services from 2000 to 2004, having served as President and Chief Operating Officer of the same entity from 1996 to 2000, and guided the company through a merger with ManuLife Financial Corporation in 2004. Mr. D’Alessandro served as President and Chief Operating Officer of ManuLife in 2004. Mr. D’Alessandro currently serves on the board of directors of Vivant Solar and also serves on the board of directors of several private companies, including APX Group Holdings, Inc. He is a former Partner of the Boston Red Sox. A graduate of Syracuse University, he holds honorary doctorates from three colleges and serves as vice chairman of Boston University.
Joel K. Manby	56	Joel K. Manby has been our President and Chief Executive Officer and a director of the Company since April 2015. From 2003 to 2015, he served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Herschend Enterprises, the largest family-owned theme park and entertainment company in the United States. Prior to joining Herschend, Mr. Manby spent 20 years in the auto industry in general management and marketing roles, primarily at General Motors in the Saturn and Saab divisions. Mr. Manby served as CEO of Saab Automobile USA from 1996 to 2000. Mr. Manby currently serves on the board of directors of Popeye’s Louisiana Kitchen, Inc. and also serves as a member of the National Advisory Board of The Salvation Army. Mr. Manby received an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School and a B.S. from Albion College. As valedictorian of Albion College, Mr. Manby was a Rhodes scholarship finalist.
Judith A. McHale	69	Judith A. McHale has been a director of the Company since 2013. Ms. McHale currently serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Cane Investments, LLC. From 2009 to 2011, Ms. McHale served as Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs for the U.S. Department of State. From 2006 to 2009, Ms. McHale served as a Managing Partner in the formation of GEF/Africa Growth Fund. Prior to that, Ms. McHale served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Discovery Communications. Ms. McHale currently serves on the board of directors of Ralph Lauren Corporation, Yellow Media Limited and Hilton Worldwide Holdings, Inc. Ms. McHale graduated from the University of Nottingham in England and Fordham University School of Law.

Name Age Principal Occupation and Other Information

Ellen O. 64 The Honorable Ellen O. Tauscher has been a director of the Company since December 2014. Ms. Tauscher currently serves as a strategic advisor at the law firm of Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC. From February 2012 to August 2012, Ms. Tauscher served as Special Envoy for Strategic Stability and Missile Defense at the U.S. State Department. From June 2009 to February 2012, Ms. Tauscher served as Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security. Prior to joining the State Department, Ms. Tauscher served from January 1997 to June 2009 as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from California's 10th Congressional District. Prior to serving in Congress, Ms. Tauscher worked in investment banking and the financial industry in various roles for Bache Halsey Stuart Shields, Bear Stearns & Co., Drexel Burnham Lambert and as an officer of the American Stock Exchange. From 1977 to 1980, Ms. Tauscher was a member of the New York Stock Exchange representing Bache Halsey Stuart Shields. Ms. Tauscher serves on the Board of Directors of eHealth, Inc., Edison International and Invacare Corporation. Ms. Tauscher also serves on the boards of various national security-related corporations and the National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Ms. Tauscher holds a B.S. degree in early childhood education from Seton Hall University.

Class II—Directors Whose Term Expires in 2018

Name Age Principal Occupation and Other Information

Ronald 61 Ronald Bension has been a director of the Company since April 2016. Mr. Bension has been the President of House of Blues Entertainment, LLC at Live Nation Entertainment, Inc. since November 2010. Prior to that, he served as Chief Executive Officer of TicketsNow.com, Inc. from January 2010 to November 2010. During his more than 30-year career, he has led several major e-commerce, recreation and entertainment companies to financial and strategic success. Mr. Bension also served as the Chief Executive Officer of Sportnet at Wasserman Media Group, LLC from February 2008 to June 2009, Chief Executive Officer of Tickets.com, Inc. from December 2001 to May 2006 and Chief Executive Officer of GameWorks, LLC from 1999 to 2001. Previously, he also served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Universal Studios Recreation Group, a unit of Universal Studios. Mr. Bension received Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from California State University, Los Angeles.

William 64 William Gray has been a director of the Company since December 2014. He currently serves as co-founder and director of Hulls Highway, Inc., a consulting firm. Mr. Gray has also been a Senior Advisor to The Blackstone Group L.P. since 2010. Mr. Gray served as Co-Chief Executive Officer of Ogilvy North America of Ogilvy & Mather Inc. from 2005 to 2009. Mr. Gray served as the President of Ogilvy & Mather Inc. from 1997 to 2005. Mr. Gray also served as Managing Director of Ogilvy Advertising New York from 1994 to 1996 and held other positions of increasing responsibility from the time he joined Ogilvy & Mather, Inc. as an Assistant Account Executive in 1978. Mr. Gray currently serves on the board of trustees of The Century Family of Mutual Funds and the New York Public Library and on the board of directors of HealthMarkets, Inc. Mr. Gray received an M.B.A. from University of Virginia and a B.A. from Harvard University.

Name	Age	Principal Occupation and Other Information
Thomas E. Moloney	72	Thomas E. Moloney has been a director of the Company since January 2015. Mr. Moloney served as the interim Chief Financial Officer of MSC—Medical Services Company (“MSC”) from December 2007 to March 2008. He retired as the Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of John Hancock Financial Services, Inc. in December 2004. He had served in that position since 1992. Mr. Moloney served in various other roles at John Hancock Financial Services, Inc. during his tenure from 1965 to 1992, including Vice President, Controller, and Senior Accountant. Mr. Moloney also previously served as a director of MSC from 2005 to 2012. Mr. Moloney serves on the Board of Directors of Genworth Financial, Inc. (NYSE) and also serves on the boards of Nashoba Learning Group and the Boston Children’s Museum (past Chairperson), both non-profit organizations. Mr. Moloney received a B.A. in Accounting from Bentley University and holds an Executive Masters Professional Director Certification (Silver Level) from the American College of Corporate Directors Group.

The Board of Directors and Certain Governance Matters

Our Board manages or directs the business and affairs of the Company, as provided by Delaware law, and conducts its business through meetings of the Board and four standing committees: the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and the Regulatory & Governmental Affairs Committee.

Our Board evaluates the Company’s corporate governance policies on an ongoing basis with a view towards maintaining the best corporate governance practices in the context of the Company’s current business environment. During the course of 2015 and 2016, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee conducted a comprehensive review of the Company’s governance profile, current best practices in corporate governance and considered recommendations of governance experts and input from the Company’s stockholders. As a result of the review, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee made recommendations to the Board to present the Declassification Proposal and Majority Voting Proposal to our stockholders at the Annual Meeting and the Board determined to include these proposals in these proxy materials relating to the Annual Meeting.

Director Independence and Independence Determinations

Under our Corporate Governance Guidelines and NYSE rules, a director is not independent unless the Board affirmatively determines that he or she does not have a direct or indirect material relationship with the Company or any of its subsidiaries.

The Board has established guidelines of director independence to assist it in making independence determinations, which conform to the independence requirements in the NYSE listing standards. In addition to applying these guidelines, which are set forth in our Corporate Governance Guidelines (which may be found on the Corporate Governance page of the Investor Relations section on our website at www.seaworldentertainment.com), the Board of Directors will consider all relevant facts and circumstances in making an independence determination. The Board’s policy is to review the independence of all directors at least annually.

In the event a director has a relationship with the Company that is relevant to his or her independence and is not addressed by the independence guidelines, the Board will determine in its judgment whether such relationship is

material.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee undertook its annual review of director independence and made a recommendation to our Board regarding director independence. As a result of this review, our Board affirmatively determined that each of Messrs. D'Alessandro, Gray, Moloney, Bension and Robinson and Meses. McHale, Tauscher and Thomas is independent under the guidelines for director independence set forth in the Corporate Governance Guidelines and for purposes of applicable NYSE standards, including with respect to committee service. Our Board has also determined that each of Mr. Moloney and Meses. McHale and Thomas is "independent" for purposes of Section 10A(m)(3) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act").

Board Structure

Our Board of Directors is led by the Non-Executive Chairman. The Chief Executive Officer position is currently separate from the Chairman position. We believe that the separation of the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer positions is appropriate corporate

9

governance for us at this time. Accordingly, Mr. D'Alessandro serves as Chairman, while Mr. Manby serves as our President and Chief Executive Officer. Our Board believes that this structure best encourages the free and open dialogue of competing views and provides for strong checks and balances. Additionally, Mr. D'Alessandro's attention to Board and committee matters allows Mr. Manby to focus more specifically on overseeing the Company's day to day operations as well as strategic opportunities and planning.

Our Corporate Governance Guidelines require the Board of Directors to elect a Lead Director on an annual basis when the Chairman of the Board of Directors is also the Chief Executive Officer or is a director who does not qualify as a Lead Director. From January 15, 2015 until April 7, 2015, Mr. D'Alessandro served as our Interim Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of our Board of Directors. As a result, Judith A. McHale, an independent director on our Board of Directors, was appointed as the Lead Director. On April 7, 2015, Mr. Manby became our Chief Executive Officer and Mr. D'Alessandro once again became the Non-Executive Chairman of our Board. In accordance with our Corporate Governance Guidelines, as of April 7, 2015, Judith A. McHale stepped down from serving as Lead Director of the Board of Directors.

Board Committees and Meetings

The following table summarizes the current membership of each of the Board's Committees.

	Audit Committee	Compensation Committee	Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee	Regulatory & Governmental Affairs Committee
David F. D'Alessandro		X, Chair		X
Joseph K. Baratta				
Ronald Bension				
William Gray		X	X	
Joel K. Manby				
Judith A. McHale	X		X, Chair	
Thomas Moloney	X			X
Ellen O. Tauscher		X	X	X, Chair
Deborah M. Thomas	X, Chair			
Peter F. Wallace				

All directors are expected to make every effort to attend all meetings of the Board, meetings of the committees of which they are members and the annual meeting of stockholders. Other than Ms. McHale, all of the directors then in office attended the Company's 2015 annual meeting of stockholders. During 2015, the Board held eleven meetings and acted ten times by unanimous written consent. During 2015, (i) the Audit Committee held seven meetings, (ii) the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee held two meetings and acted two times by unanimous written consent, and (iii) the Compensation Committee held three meetings and acted five times by unanimous written consent. The Regulatory & Governmental Affairs Committee was formed in December 2015 and did not hold any meetings during 2015. Other than Mr. Baratta, no member of the Board attended fewer than 75% of the aggregate of the total number of meetings of the Board (held during the period for which he or she was a director) and the total

number of meetings held by all committees of the Board on which such director served (held during the period that such director served).

Committee Membership

Audit Committee

All members of the Audit Committee are “independent,” consistent with our Corporate Governance Guidelines and the NYSE listing standards applicable to boards of directors in general and audit committees in particular. Our Board has determined that each of the members of the Audit Committee is “financially literate” within the meaning of the listing standards of the NYSE. In addition, our Board has determined that Mr. Moloney and Ms. Thomas qualify as audit committee financial experts as defined by applicable Securities Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) regulations. The Board reached its conclusion as to Mr. Moloney’s qualification based on, among other things, Mr. Moloney’s experience as the Chief Financial Officer of John Hancock Financial Services. The Board reached its conclusion as to Ms. Thomas’ qualification based on, among other things, Ms. Thomas’ experience as the Chief Financial Officer of Hasbro, Inc.

The duties and responsibilities of the Audit Committee are set forth in its charter, which may be found at www.seaworldentertainment.com under Investor Relations: Corporate Governance: Governance Documents: Audit Committee Charter, and include the following:

- carrying out the responsibilities and duties delegated to it by the Board, including its oversight of our financial reporting policies, our internal controls and our compliance with legal and regulatory requirements applicable to financial statements and accounting and financial reporting processes;
- selecting our independent registered public accounting firm and reviewing and evaluating its qualifications, performance and independence;
- reviewing and pre-approving the audit and non-audit services and the payment of compensation to the independent registered public accounting firm;
- reviewing reports and material written communications between management and the independent registered public accounting firm, including with respect to major issues as to the adequacy of the Company's internal controls;
- reviewing the work of our internal audit function; and
- reviewing and discussing with management and the independent registered public accounting firm our guidelines and policies with respect to risk assessment and risk management.

With respect to our reporting and disclosure matters, the responsibilities and duties of the Audit Committee include reviewing and discussing with management and the independent registered public accounting firm our annual audited financial statements and quarterly financial statements prior to inclusion in our Annual Report on Form 10-K or other public dissemination in accordance with applicable rules and regulations of the SEC.

On behalf of the Board, the Audit Committee plays a key role in the oversight of the Company's risk management policies and procedures. See "Oversight of Risk Management" below.

Compensation Committee

All members of the Compensation Committee are "independent," consistent with our Corporate Governance Guidelines and the NYSE listing standards applicable to boards of directors in general and compensation committees in particular. During the course of 2015, our Compensation Committee consisted of Messrs. D'Alessandro and Gray and Meses. McHale and Tauscher. Ms. McHale served on our Compensation Committee from March 17, 2014 until April 7, 2015. Mr. D'Alessandro did not serve on our Compensation Committee during his service as our Interim Chief Executive Officer but he was re-appointed to our Compensation Committee on April 7, 2015 after his resignation as our Interim Chief Executive Officer.

The duties and responsibilities of the Compensation Committee are set forth in its charter, which may be found at www.seaworldentertainment.com under Investor Relations: Corporate Governance: Governance Documents: Compensation Committee Charter, and include the following:

- establishing and reviewing the overall compensation philosophy of the Company;
- reviewing and approving corporate goals and objectives relevant to the Chief Executive Officer and other executive officers' compensation, including annual performance objectives, if any;
- evaluating the performance of the Chief Executive Officer in light of these corporate goals and objectives and, either as a committee or together with the other independent directors (as directed by the Board), determining and approving the annual salary, bonus, equity-based incentives and other benefits, direct and indirect, of the Chief Executive Officer;
- reviewing and approving or making recommendations to the Board on the annual salary, bonus, equity and equity-based incentives and other benefits, direct and indirect, of the other executive officers;
- considering policies and procedures pertaining to expense accounts of senior executives;
-

reviewing and approving, or making recommendations to the Board with respect to incentive-compensation plans and equity-based plans that are subject to the approval of the Board, and overseeing the activities of the individuals responsible for administering those plans;

· reviewing and approving equity compensation plans of the Company that are not otherwise subject to the approval of the Company's stockholders;

11

- reviewing and making recommendations to the Board, or approving, all equity-based awards, including pursuant to the Company's equity-based plans;
 - monitoring compliance by executives with the rules and guidelines of the Company's equity-based plans; and
- reviewing and monitoring all employee retirement, profit sharing and benefit plans of the Company.

With respect to our reporting and disclosure matters, the responsibilities and duties of the Compensation Committee include overseeing the preparation of the Compensation Discussion and Analysis to the Board for inclusion in our annual proxy statement or Annual Report on Form 10-K in accordance with applicable rules and regulations of the SEC. The charter of the Compensation Committee permits the committee to delegate any or all of its authority to one or more subcommittees and to delegate to one or more officers of the Company the authority to make awards to any non-Section 16 officer of the Company under the Company's incentive-compensation or other equity-based plan, subject to compliance with the plan and the laws of the state of the Company's jurisdiction.

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

During the course of 2015, our Compensation Committee consisted of Messrs. D'Alessandro and Gray and Meses. McHale and Tauscher. Other than Mr. D'Alessandro, who served as our Interim Chief Executive Officer from January 15, 2015 until April 7, 2015, none of the members of our Compensation Committee is, or has at any time during the past year been, an officer or employee of our Company. Mr. D'Alessandro did not serve on our Compensation Committee during his service as our Interim Chief Executive Officer but he was re-appointed to our Compensation Committee on April 7, 2015 after his resignation as our Interim Chief Executive Officer. None of our executive officers currently serve, or in the past year has served, as a member of the board of directors or compensation committee of any other entity that has one or more executive officers serving on our Board of Directors or Compensation Committee.

Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee

All members of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee are "independent," consistent with our Corporate Governance Guidelines and the applicable NYSE listing standards. The duties and responsibilities of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee are set forth in its charter, which may be found at www.seaworldentertainment.com under Investor Relations: Corporate Governance: Governance Documents: Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee Charter, and include the following:

- establishing the criteria for the selection of new directors;
 - identifying and recommending to the Board individuals to be nominated as directors;
- evaluating candidates for nomination to the Board, including those recommended by stockholders;
- conducting all necessary and appropriate inquiries into the backgrounds and qualifications of possible candidates;
- considering questions of independence and possible conflicts of interest of members of the Board and executive officers;
- reviewing and recommending the composition and size of the Board;
- overseeing, at least annually, the evaluation of the Board and management;
- recommending to the members of the Board to serve on the committees of the Board and, where appropriate, recommending the removal of any member of any of the committees; and
- periodically reviewing the charter, composition and performance of each committee of the Board and recommending to the Board the creation or elimination of committees.

During the course of 2015 and 2016, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee conducted a comprehensive review of the Company's governance profile, current best practices in corporate governance and considered recommendations of governance experts and input from the Company's stockholders. As a result of the

review, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee made recommendations to the Board to present the Declassification Proposal and Majority Voting Proposal to our stockholders at the Annual Meeting and the Board determined to include these proposals in these proxy materials relating to the Annual Meeting.

Regulatory and Governmental Affairs Committee

The Regulatory & Governmental Affairs Committee was formed in December 2015 and consists of Ms. Tauscher and Mr. Moloney. In addition, Mr. D'Alessandro, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Board, serves as an ex officio, voting member of such

committee. All members of the Regulatory & Governmental Affairs Committee are independent. The duties and responsibilities of the Regulatory & Governmental Affairs Committee are set forth in its charter, and include the following:

- reviewing and discussing with management the Company's guidelines and policies with respect to regulatory risk assessment, regulatory risk management and measures taken to address such risks;
 - periodically, reviewing and discussing with the Company's General Counsel and/or the Company's Senior Corporate Affairs Officer any regulatory matter that could have a significant impact on the Company's business; and
 - overseeing the strategic goals, objectives, progress and direction of the Company's governmental regulatory affairs.
- Special Committees

From time to time the Board may form and appoint members to special committees with responsibility to address topics designated at the time of such committee formation. In connection with Mr. Manby joining as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company in 2015, the Board formed a Special Committee (the "Special Committee") to provide advice to Mr. Manby on the Company's long-range business planning, and appointed Messrs. D'Alessandro and Gray and Ms. McHale and Tauscher to serve as members of the Special Committee. The Special Committee's primary purpose was to evaluate a broad spectrum of enhancements, modifications and alternatives with respect to the display, husbandry and breeding practices, handling and care, and study and research of the Company's killer whales and other marine animals in light of the uncertain legal, legislative and regulatory environment and evolving public sentiment regarding such matters. In connection with the foregoing, on March 17, 2016, the Company issued a press release announcing that the killer whales, or orcas, currently in the Company's care will be the last generation of orcas at SeaWorld and the Company will end all orca breeding as of such date. During 2015, the Special Committee met in person or by telephone eight times.

Oversight of Risk Management

The Board has extensive involvement in the oversight of risk management related to us and our business and accomplishes this oversight through the regular reporting by the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee represents the Board by periodically reviewing our accounting, reporting and financial practices, including the integrity of our financial statements, the surveillance of administrative and financial controls and our compliance with legal and regulatory requirements. Through its regular meetings with management, including the finance, legal, and internal audit functions, the Audit Committee reviews and discusses all significant areas of our business and summarizes for the Board all areas of risk and the appropriate mitigating factors. In addition, our Board receives periodic detailed operating performance reviews from management.

Executive Sessions

Executive sessions, which are meetings of the non-management members of the Board, are regularly scheduled throughout the year. In addition, at least once a year, the independent directors meet in a private session that excludes management and non-independent directors. At each of these meetings, the non-management and independent directors in attendance, as applicable, will determine which member will preside at such session. The Audit, Compensation and Nominating and Corporate Governance Committees also meet regularly in executive session.

Committee Charters and Corporate Governance Guidelines

Our commitment to good corporate governance is reflected in our Corporate Governance Guidelines, which describe the Board's views on a wide range of governance topics. These Corporate Governance Guidelines are reviewed from time to time by the Board and, to the extent deemed appropriate in light of emerging practices, revised accordingly, upon recommendation to and approval by the full Board.

Our Corporate Governance Guidelines, which include our categorical standards of director independence, our Audit, Compensation and Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee charters and other corporate governance information are available on the Corporate Governance page of the Investor Relations section on our website at www.seaworldentertainment.com. Any stockholder also may request them in print, without charge, by contacting the Corporate Secretary at SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc., 9205 South Park Center Loop, Suite 400, Orlando, Florida 32819.

Code of Conduct

We maintain a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics that is applicable to all of our directors, officers, and employees, including our Chairman, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Accounting Officer and other senior financial officers. The

Code of Business Conduct and Ethics sets forth our policies and expectations on a number of topics, including conflicts of interest, compliance with laws, use of our assets and business conduct and fair dealing. This Code of Business Conduct and Ethics also satisfies the requirements for a code of ethics, as defined by Item 406 of Regulation S-K promulgated by the SEC. The Company will disclose within four business days any substantive changes in or waivers of the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics granted to our principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller, or persons performing similar functions, by posting such information on our website as set forth above rather than by filing a Form 8-K.

The Code of Business Conduct and Ethics may be found on our website at www.seaworldentertainment.com under Investor Relations: Corporate Governance: Code of Business Conduct and Ethics.

As described in our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, the Company's directors, officers and employees are provided with three avenues through which they can report violations or suspected violations with respect to addressing any ethical questions or concerns: a toll-free phone line, in writing, and a website. The toll-free number for the Company's directors, officers and employees is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Directors, officers and employees may also report integrity concerns via the Web. Directors, officers and employees can choose to remain anonymous in reporting violations or suspected violations. In addition, we maintain a formal non-retaliation policy that prohibits action or retaliation against any director, officer or employee who makes a report in good faith even if the facts alleged are not confirmed by subsequent investigation.

Director Nomination Process

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee weighs the characteristics, experience, independence and skills of potential candidates for election to the Board and recommends nominees for director to the Board for election. In considering candidates for the Board, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee also assesses the size, composition and combined expertise of the Board. As the application of these factors involves the exercise of judgment, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee does not have a standard set of fixed qualifications that is applicable to all director candidates, although the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee does at a minimum assess each candidate's strength of character, mature judgment, industry knowledge or experience, his or her ability to work collegially with the other members of the Board and his or her ability to satisfy any applicable legal requirements or listing standards. In addition, although the Board considers diversity of viewpoints, background and experiences, the Board does not have a formal diversity policy. In identifying prospective director candidates, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee may seek referrals from other members of the Board, management, stockholders and other sources. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee also may, but need not, retain a search firm in order to assist it in identifying candidates to serve as directors of the Company. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee utilizes the same criteria for evaluating candidates regardless of the source of the referral. When considering director candidates, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee seeks individuals with backgrounds and qualities that, when combined with those of our incumbent directors, provide a blend of skills and experience to further enhance the Board's effectiveness.

The stockholders' agreement described below under "Transactions with Related Persons" provides that The Blackstone Group L.P. ("Blackstone") has the right to nominate to our Board a number of designees approximately equal to the percentage of voting power of all shares of the Company's capital stock entitled to vote generally in the election of directors collectively beneficially owned by Blackstone. Currently, one director (Mr. Wallace) nominated by Blackstone serves on our Board of Directors. See "Transactions with Related Persons—Stockholders' Agreement."

In connection with its annual recommendation of a slate of nominees, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee may also assess the contributions of those directors recommended for re-election in the context of the Board evaluation process and other perceived needs of the Board.

In the case of Donald C. Robinson, a professional search firm identified him to the Company as a potential director candidate. Following that, certain stockholders of the Company also recommended him to the Company. Prior to his nomination, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee Chairperson, as well as a number of other members of the Board, met with Mr. Robinson to consider whether he would be an appropriate candidate for the Board. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee met several times to review Mr. Robinson's qualifications and consider his candidacy. At a meeting held on April 13, 2016, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee voted unanimously to recommend Mr. Robinson to the Board. Following such recommendation, the Board voted unanimously to present the nomination of Mr. Robinson to the stockholders at this Annual Meeting.

In the case of Deborah M. Thomas, other members of the Board, specifically Messrs. D'Alessandro and Wallace, initially identified her as a potential director for the Board. Prior to her appointment, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee Chairman, as well as a number of other members of the Board, met with Ms. Thomas to consider whether she would be an appropriate candidate for the Board. On November 11, 2013, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee met to review Ms. Thomas' qualifications and consider her candidacy. At that meeting, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee voted unanimously to recommend Ms. Thomas to the Board. Following such recommendation, the Board voted unanimously to nominate Ms. Thomas to the Board.

When considering whether the directors and nominees have the experience, qualifications, attributes and skills, taken as a whole, to enable the Board to satisfy its oversight responsibilities effectively in light of the Company's business and structure, the Board focused primarily on the information discussed in each of the board member's biographical information set forth above. Each of the Company's directors possesses high ethical standards, acts with integrity and exercises careful, mature judgment. Each is committed to employing his skills and abilities to aid the long-term interests of the stakeholders of the Company. In addition, our directors are knowledgeable and experienced in one or more business, governmental, or civic endeavors, which further qualifies them for service as members of the Board. A significant number of our directors possess experience in owning and managing public and privately held enterprises and are familiar with corporate finance and strategic business planning activities that are unique to publicly traded companies like ours.

- Mr. Manby has financial and management expertise as well as a thorough knowledge of our industry having previously served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Herschend Enterprises, the largest family-owned theme park and entertainment company in the United States. In addition, Mr. Manby has experience as a director of other public companies.
 - Mr. D'Alessandro has financial and management expertise and valuable experience gained from his positions as Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of John Hancock Financial Services.
 - Mr. Bension has extensive e-commerce and entertainment company expertise from his experience leading several major e-commerce, recreation and entertainment companies to financial and strategic success.
 - Mr. Gray has marketing and management expertise acquired from his former role as Co-Chief Executive Officer of Ogilvy & Mather, Inc.

 - Ms. McHale has extensive business and management expertise, including experience as an executive officer and director of several public companies, as well as her prior service as a high-ranking official in the U.S. Department of State.
 - Mr. Moloney has financial and management expertise and valuable experience gained from his position as Chief Financial Officer of John Hancock Financial Services, as well as experience as a director of other public companies.
 - Mr. Robinson has significant theme park and resort development experience that he gained from his various positions held at The Walt Disney Company and his experience as president of Baha Mar Ltd.
 - Ms. Tauscher has expertise in finance and strategy development and knowledge of government affairs acquired through her service at the State Department and in Congress as well as during her career in investment banking. In addition, Ms. Tauscher has experience as a director of several public companies.
 - Ms. Thomas has significant financial and management expertise based on her extensive experience in leading global financial operations as the Chief Financial Officer of Hasbro, Inc.
 - Mr. Wallace has served on the boards of a diverse group of companies and has significant financial and investment experience that he has gained from his position as a Senior Managing Director at Blackstone.
- This annual director nomination process resulted in the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee's recommendation to the Board, and the Board's nomination, of the three incumbent directors named in this Proxy Statement and proposed for election by you at the upcoming Annual Meeting.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee regularly considers director candidates recommended by stockholders. Any recommendation submitted to the Corporate Secretary should be in writing and should include any supporting material the stockholder considers appropriate in support of that recommendation, but must include information that would be required under the rules of the SEC to be included in a proxy statement soliciting proxies for the election of such candidate and a written consent of the candidate to serve as one of our directors if elected. Stockholders wishing to propose a candidate for consideration may do so by submitting the above information to the attention of the Corporate Secretary, SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc., 9205 South Park Center Loop, Suite 400, Orlando, Florida 32819. All recommendations for nomination received by the Corporate Secretary that satisfy our

by-law requirements relating to such director nominations will be presented to the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee for its consideration. Stockholders must also satisfy the notification, timeliness, consent and information requirements set forth in our by-laws. These requirements are also described under the caption “Stockholder Proposals for the 2017 Annual Meeting”.

Communications with the Board

As described in the Corporate Governance Guidelines, stockholders and other interested parties who wish to communicate with a member or members of the Board, including the chairperson of the Audit, Compensation, or Nominating and Corporate Governance Committees or to the non-management or independent directors as a group, may do so by addressing such communications or concerns to the General Counsel of the Company, 9205 South Park Center Loop, Suite 400, Orlando, Florida 32819. Such communications may be done confidentially or anonymously.

Executive Officers of the Company

Set forth below is certain information regarding each of our current executive officers, other than Mr. Joel K. Manby, whose biographical information is presented under “Class I—Directors Whose Term Expires in 2017.”

Name	Age	Principal Occupation and Other Information
Peter J. Crage	54	Peter J. Crage has been our Chief Financial Officer since September 2015. Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Crage served as Chief Financial Officer of Extended Stay America, Inc. and ESH Hospitality, Inc. from 2013 through 2014 and served as Chief Financial Officer of HVM LLC from 2011 to 2013. From 2010 to 2011, Mr. Crage served as the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Cedar Fair, L.P., one of the largest regional amusement-resort operators in the world. From 2005 to 2010, he served as Cedar Fair, L.P.’s Corporate Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, from 2004 to 2005 he served as their Vice President and Corporate Controller and prior to that time he served as their Corporate Treasurer. Mr. Crage holds a bachelor’s degree in accounting and finance from Canisius College and is a CPA.
Daniel B. Brown	61	Daniel B. Brown retired as the Chief Parks Operations Officer of the Company on April 1, 2016. He was appointed to such position in February 2015. Prior to that, Mr. Brown served as Chief Operating Officer — SeaWorld & Discovery Cove from 2010 until February 2015, Park President of SeaWorld Orlando, Discovery Cove and Aquatica from 2007 to 2010, Park President of Busch Gardens Tampa and Adventure Island from 2003 to 2007, Park President of Busch Gardens Williamsburg from 1999 to 2003, and Vice President of Operations of Busch Entertainment Corporation from 1997 to 1999. Mr. Brown serves on the Dean’s Advisory Board of UCF’s Rosen College of Hospitality Management, the executive board of Visit Orlando, the board of the Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute and the Orange County International Drive Community Development Area Advisory Committee. He holds a bachelor’s degree of Arts from Webster University.
John T. Reilly	47	John T. Reilly was appointed as the Chief Parks Operations Officer of the Company in April 2016. Prior to that, Mr. Reilly served as Park President of SeaWorld San Diego from 2010 until April 2016 and Park President of Busch Gardens Williamsburg from 2008 to 2010. Mr. Reilly serves on the board of trustees of the Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from The College of William & Mary.

Name	Age	Principal Occupation and Other Information
Anthony Esparza	55	Anthony Esparza has been our Chief Creative Officer since September 2015. Prior to joining the Company, from 2003 through 2015, Mr. Esparza served as Senior Vice President, Guest Experiences, Design and Development for Herschend Enterprises, the largest family-owned theme park and entertainment company in the United States. From 1995 to 2003, Mr. Esparza served as the Senior Vice President of Design and Entertainment for Paramount Parks, a Viacom Company. Prior to that, he served as Vice President of Creative Development at Landmark Entertainment Group in Los Angeles. Mr. Esparza holds a bachelor's degree in design from the University of California, Los Angeles. Mr. Esparza also serves on the Urban Land Institute Entertainment Council.
G. Anthony (Tony) Taylor	50	G. Anthony (Tony) Taylor has been our Chief Legal Officer, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary since 2010. In addition, from March 2013 until November 2015, Mr. Taylor led the Company's Corporate Affairs group, which includes Industry & Governmental Affairs, Corporate Communications, Community Affairs and Corporate Social Responsibility. Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Taylor held the position of Associate General Counsel of Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc. from 2000 to 2010, and was a Principal at Blumenfeld Kaplan in St. Louis from 1993 to 2000. He holds bachelors' degrees in political science and speech communication from the University of Missouri and a juris doctor degree from Washington University.
Dave Hammer	55	Dave Hammer has been our Chief Human Resources Officer since 2009. Prior to that, Mr. Hammer served as Corporate Vice President of Human Resources of Busch Entertainment Corporation from 2004 until 2009, Vice President of Human Resources of Sea World Florida and Corporate Manager of Human Resources for Busch Entertainment Corporation from 1999 to 2001, Director of Human Resources of Busch Properties, Inc. from 1995 to 1999 and as Vice President of Human Resources for Sesame Place from 1991 to 1995. Mr. Hammer is a member of the board of directors of the Florida Chamber of Commerce. He holds a bachelor's degree in human resources from St. Leo College in Tampa, Florida.
Marc G. Swanson	45	Marc G. Swanson has been our Chief Accounting Officer since 2012 and served as interim Chief Financial Officer from June 2015 until September 2015. Previously, he was Vice President Performance Management and Corporate Controller of SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment from 2011 to 2012, the Corporate Controller of Busch Entertainment Corporation from 2008 to 2011 and the Vice President of Finance of Sesame Place from 2004 to 2008. He is a member of the board of directors of the SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund and the board of trustees of the Orlando Science Center. Mr. Swanson holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Purdue University and a master's degree in business administration from DePaul University, and is a CPA.

Name	Age	Principal Occupation and Other Information
Christopher (Chris) Dold	43	Dr. Christopher (Chris) Dold was appointed to Chief Zoological Officer of the Company in April 2016. Prior to that, Dr. Dold served as Vice President, Veterinary Services from October 2009 until April 2016 and Senior Veterinarian at SeaWorld Orlando from October 2005 to September 2009. Prior to joining the Company, Dr. Dold was a National Academies- National Research Council Postdoctoral Clinical Fellow with the US Navy Marine Mammal Program, and completed a University of California-Davis Internship in Marine Mammal Medicine and Pathology at The Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito, California. Dr. Dold is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine, European Association for Aquatic Mammals, and the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians. Dr. Dold received a Bachelor of Science degree in zoology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his doctorate in veterinary medicine from the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine.

Proposal No. 2—Ratification of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Audit Committee has selected Deloitte & Touche LLP to serve as our independent registered public accounting firm for 2016.

Although ratification is not required by our by-laws or otherwise, the Board is submitting the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP to our stockholders for ratification because we value our stockholders' views on the Company's independent registered public accounting firm. If our stockholders fail to ratify the selection, it will be considered as notice to the Board and the Audit Committee to consider the selection of a different firm. Even if the selection is ratified, the Audit Committee, in its discretion, may select a different independent registered public accounting firm at any time during the year if it determines that such a change would be in the best interests of the Company and our stockholders.

Representatives of Deloitte & Touche LLP are expected to be present at the Annual Meeting. They also will have the opportunity to make a statement if they desire to do so, and they are expected to be available to respond to appropriate questions.

The shares represented by your proxy will be voted for the ratification of the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP unless you specify otherwise.

Audit and Non-Audit Fees

The following table presents fees for professional services rendered by Deloitte & Touche LLP for the audit of our financial statements for 2015 and 2014 and fees billed for other services rendered by Deloitte & Touche LLP for those periods:

	2015	2014
Audit fees ⁽¹⁾	\$1,604,900	\$1,636,375
Audit-related fees ⁽²⁾	55,384	252,420
Tax fees ⁽³⁾	65,200	419,728
Total:	\$1,725,484	\$2,308,523

(1) Includes the aggregate fees in each of the last two fiscal years for professional services rendered by Deloitte & Touche LLP for the audit of the Company's annual financial statements, internal controls over financial reporting and the review of interim financial statements included in SEC filings.

(2) Includes fees billed for assurance and related services performed by Deloitte & Touche LLP that are primarily related to the Company's April 2014 secondary offering, SEC comment letters and audits of the SeaWorld and Busch Gardens Conservation Fund and the benefit plan of the Company.

(3) Includes the aggregate fees recognized in each of the last two fiscal years for professional services rendered by Deloitte & Touche LLP for tax compliance, tax advice and tax planning.

The Audit Committee considered whether providing the non-audit services shown in this table was compatible with maintaining Deloitte & Touche LLP's independence and concluded that it was.

Consistent with SEC policies regarding auditor independence and the Audit Committee's charter, the Audit Committee has responsibility for engaging, setting compensation for and reviewing the performance of the independent registered public accounting firm. In exercising this responsibility, the Audit Committee pre-approves all audit and permitted

non-audit services provided by the independent registered public accounting firm prior to each engagement.

Each year, the Audit Committee approves an annual budget for such audit and permitted non-audit services and requires the independent registered public accounting firm and management to report actual fees versus the budget periodically throughout the year. The Audit Committee has authorized Deloitte & Touche LLP's commencement of work on such permitted services within that budget, although the Chair of the Audit Committee may pre-approve any such audit and permitted non-audit services that exceed the initial budget. During the year, circumstances may arise that make it necessary to engage the independent registered public accounting firm for additional services that would exceed the initial budget. The Audit Committee has delegated the authority to the Chair of the Audit Committee to review such circumstances and to grant approval when appropriate. All such approvals are then reported by the Audit Committee Chair to the full Audit Committee at its next meeting.

YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE "FOR" THE RATIFICATION OF DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP AS OUR INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM FOR 2016.

Proposal No. 3—Non-Binding Vote on Executive Compensation

In accordance with the requirements of Section 14A of the Exchange Act (which was added by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the “Dodd-Frank Act”)) and the related rules of the SEC, we are including in these proxy materials a separate resolution subject to stockholder vote to approve, in a non-binding, advisory vote, the compensation paid to our named executive officers as disclosed on pages 26 to 51. While the results of the vote are non-binding and advisory in nature, the Board intends to carefully consider the results of this vote.

The text of the resolution in respect of Proposal No. 3 is as follows:

“RESOLVED, that the compensation paid to the Company’s named executive officers, as disclosed pursuant to Item 402 of Regulation S-K, including the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, compensation tables and narrative discussion is hereby APPROVED.”

In considering their vote, stockholders may wish to review with care the information on the Company’s compensation policies and decisions regarding the named executive officers presented in Compensation Discussion and Analysis on pages 26 to 51, as well as the discussion regarding the Compensation Committee on pages 11 to 12.

In particular, stockholders should note the following:

- A significant portion of named executive officers’ total compensation is tied to the achievement of the Company’s financial goals and individual accomplishments that contribute to the Company’s success in the short- and long-term.
- Long-term equity incentive grants, which constitute a key component of executive compensation, typically have a multi-year vesting period designed to motivate our named executive officers to make business decisions that, over the long-term, should increase the price of our stock.

YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE “FOR” THE APPROVAL OF THE COMPENSATION PAID TO OUR NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS.

Proposal No. 4—Approval of Management Proposal to Amend the Company’s Certificate of Incorporation to Provide for the Phased-In Declassification of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors has approved and declared advisable, and recommends that the Company’s stockholders adopt, an amendment to our Certificate of Incorporation that would phase in the declassification of the Board of Directors and provide for the annual election of all directors, as described below and as set forth in the form of amendment attached to this proxy statement as Exhibit A (the “Amendment”). The Board of Directors has adopted corresponding amendments to our Second Amended and Restated Bylaws (the “Bylaws”) attached to this proxy statement as Exhibit B, which amendments are subject to, and will become effective only upon, the effectiveness of the Amendment.

Background of the Proposal

The Certificate of Incorporation currently provides that the Board of Directors is divided into three classes, with directors in each class serving staggered, three-year terms and the term of office of one class of directors expiring at each annual meeting. This classified board structure has been in place since the Company’s initial public offering in 2013. The Board of Directors believes that this structure has helped assure continuity of the Company’s business strategies and has reinforced a commitment to long-term stockholder value. Although these are important benefits, the Board of Directors recognizes the growing sentiment among stockholders and the investment community in favor of annual elections for all directors. After careful consideration, the Board of Directors determined that it is advisable and in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders to propose a phased-in declassification of the Board of Directors, commencing with the Company’s 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

Proposed Amendment to the Company’s Certificate of Incorporation

As noted above, members of our Board of Directors are currently elected for staggered terms of three years. If the Declassification Proposal is approved and the Amendment becomes effective, the declassification of the Board of Directors will be phased-in as follows:

- the directors who are elected under Proposal 1 of this Proxy Statement will be elected for a three-year term which expires at the 2019 Annual Meeting;
- the directors who were elected for a three-year term at our 2014 Annual Meeting of Stockholders will continue to serve the remainder of the three-year term for which they were elected, which term expires at the 2017 Annual Meeting;
- the directors who were elected for a three-year term at our 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders will continue to serve the remainder of the three-year term for which they were elected, which term expires at the 2018 Annual Meeting;
- commencing with the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, the directors who are elected at each annual meeting will be elected to a one-year term expiring at the next succeeding annual meeting; and
- commencing with the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, all directors will be elected for a one-year term expiring at the next annual meeting of stockholders.

Following the effectiveness of the Amendment, any director elected to fill a vacancy caused by the death, resignation, retirement, disqualification or removal of a director who was elected for a three-year term (such a director, a “Continuing Classified Director”) will hold office until the annual meeting of stockholders at which the term of the Continuing Classified Director would have expired. In all cases, each director will hold office until his or her successor has been duly elected and qualified or until such director’s death, resignation, retirement, disqualification or removal from office.

Currently under our Certificate of Incorporation, our directors are removable only for cause and only by the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 66 2/3% in voting power of all the then-outstanding shares of the Company’s stock entitled to vote thereon, voting together as a single class. If the Declassification Proposal is approved by the requisite vote of the stockholders, upon the effectiveness of the Amendment, our Certificate of Incorporation will provide that any or all directors who are elected for a term expiring at the next annual meeting of stockholders may be removed with or without cause by the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 66 2/3% in voting power of all the then-outstanding shares of the Company’s stock entitled to vote thereon, voting together as a single class. Our Certificate of Incorporation will provide, however, that notwithstanding the foregoing, to the fullest extent permitted by law, any Continuing Classified Director (and any director appointed to fill a vacancy cause by the death, resignation, retirement, disqualification or removal of any Continuing Classified Director) may be removed only for cause and only by the affirmative vote of

the holders of at least 66 2/3% in voting power of all the then-outstanding shares of stock of the Company entitled to vote thereon, voting together as a single class.

In addition to approving and declaring advisable the Amendment, the Board of Directors has also approved conforming amendments to the Bylaws, which amendments to the Bylaws are subject to, and will become effective only upon, the effectiveness of the Amendment.

Exhibit A to this Proxy Statement shows the proposed changes to Article VI of the Certificate of Incorporation, and Exhibit B shows the proposed changes to the Bylaws. The above description of this Proposal is qualified in its entirety by the actual text of the proposed amendments, as set forth in Exhibits A and B.

Effective Date and Vote Required

If this proposal is approved by the requisite vote of the stockholders at the Annual Meeting, the Amendment will become effective upon the filing of a Certificate of Amendment setting forth the Amendment with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware, which filing is expected to take place shortly after stockholder approval. As required by Delaware law, if this proposal is not approved by the requisite vote of the stockholders at the Annual Meeting, the Amendment will not become effective and the Board of Directors will remain divided into three classes, with directors in each class serving staggered three-year terms and the term of office of directors of one class expiring at each annual meeting.

Approval of the Declassification Proposal requires the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 66 2/3% in voting power of the outstanding shares of the Company's stock entitled to vote on the proposal, voting as a single class.

YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE "FOR" THE PROPOSAL TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT TO THE CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION TO PHASE IN THE DECLASSIFICATION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Proposal No. 5—Management Proposal to Determine the Advisability of Implementing Majority Voting in Uncontested Director Elections

The Board of Directors has approved the submission of this proposal to the stockholders to determine the advisability of the Board of Directors taking the steps necessary to implement a majority voting standard in uncontested director elections. If this proposal is approved by the requisite vote of the stockholders, the Board of Directors will take appropriate action to implement a majority voting standard in uncontested director elections.

Background of the Proposal

The Company's directors are currently elected pursuant to the "plurality voting standard," under which board nominees who receive the greatest number of votes cast in favor of their election at the annual meeting of stockholders are elected to the board, up to the maximum number of directorships to be filled at that meeting. This means that, currently, a nominee may be elected to the Company's Board whether or not the votes cast in favor of his or her election constituted a majority of votes cast. The plurality voting standard is also the default voting standard for the election of directors under the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware, where the Company is incorporated.

In recent years, certain members of the investor community have urged that, in uncontested elections, directors of public companies be required to receive a majority of the votes cast in favor of their election rather than be elected using a plurality voting standard. Under such a "majority voting standard," the number of votes cast "for" the election of a nominee must exceed the number of votes cast "against" the election of the nominee in order for that nominee to be elected to the board of directors. Under a majority voting standard, abstentions and broker non-votes would not be counted as votes cast either "for" or "against" a director's election and will thus have no effect in determining whether the requisite vote had been obtained. Corporations and members of the investment community have generally recognized, however, that plurality voting should continue to apply in a contested election, where the number of nominees exceeds the number of directorships up for election.

In response, a number of public companies have adopted a majority voting standard in uncontested director elections. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and the Board of the Company have monitored corporate governance developments and considered the merits, risks, and uncertainties relating to use of a majority vote standard in uncontested elections.

Proposal

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and the Board believe that it is in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders to submit this proposal to the stockholders to determine the advisability of the Board of Directors taking the steps necessary to amend the Company's Second Amended and Restated Bylaws (the "Bylaws") to provide for majority voting in uncontested director elections.

If the majority voting standard is implemented, the majority voting standard would only apply in uncontested director elections. In contested director elections – where the number of director nominees exceeds the number of directors to be elected at the meeting – a plurality voting standard would continue to apply.

Further, if a director nominee fails to receive the required number of votes for election in an uncontested director election (in other words, the director nominee receives more votes cast "against" his or her election than "for" his or her election), such director shall offer to tender his or her resignation to the Board in accordance with policies and procedures adopted by the Board of Directors from time to time. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will then make a recommendation to the Board of Directors on whether to accept or reject such resignation, or whether other action should be taken. The Board of Directors will consider the Nominating and

Corporate Governance Committee's recommendation and other relevant factors (including, but not limited to, the applicable legal and exchange listing standards) in determining the appropriate course of action. The Board of Directors will publicly disclose its decision whether to accept such director's resignation within 90 days from the date of the certification of the election results.

YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE "FOR" THE PROPOSAL TO DETERMINE THE ADVISABILITY OF IMPLEMENTING MAJORITY VOTING IN UNCONTESTED DIRECTOR ELECTIONS.

Report of the Audit Committee

The Audit Committee operates pursuant to a charter which is reviewed annually by the Audit Committee. Additionally, a brief description of the primary responsibilities of the Audit Committee is included in this Proxy Statement under the discussion of “The Board of Directors and Certain Governance Matters—Committee Membership—Audit Committee”. Under the Audit Committee charter, our management is responsible for the preparation, presentation and integrity of our financial statements, the application of accounting and financial reporting principles and our internal controls and procedures designed to assure compliance with accounting standards and applicable laws and regulations. The independent registered public accounting firm is responsible for auditing our financial statements and expressing an opinion as to their conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In the performance of its oversight function, the Audit Committee reviewed and discussed the audited financial statements of the Company with management and with the independent registered public accounting firm. The Audit Committee also discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm the matters required to be discussed by Public Company Accounting Oversight Board Auditing Standard No. 16 “Communications with Audit Committees.” In addition, the Audit Committee received the written disclosures and the letter from the independent registered public accounting firm required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding the independent registered public accounting firm’s communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence, and discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm their independence.

Based upon the review and discussions described in the preceding paragraph, our Audit Committee recommended to the Board that the audited financial statements of the Company be included in the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015 filed with the SEC.

Submitted by the Audit Committee of the Company’s Board of Directors:

Deborah M. Thomas, Chair

Judith A. McHale

Thomas E. Moloney

Equity Compensation Plan Information

The following table provides information about our Equity Compensation Plans as of December 31, 2015:

Plan category	Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights	Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights	Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a))
	(a)	(b)	(c)
Equity compensation plan approved by security holders	2,274,385	\$ 19.21	10,776,041
Equity compensation plan not approved by security holders	—	\$ —	—
Total	2,274,385	\$ 19.21	10,776,041

Report of the Compensation Committee

The Compensation Committee has reviewed and discussed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis required by Item 402(b) of Regulation S-K with management. Based on such review and discussions, the Compensation Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this Proxy Statement relating to our 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

Submitted by the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors:

David F. D'Alessandro, Chair

William Gray

Ellen O. Tauscher

*Judith A. McHale

*Ms. McHale served on the Compensation Committee from March 17, 2014 until April 7, 2015.

Executive Compensation

Compensation Discussion and Analysis

Introduction

Our executive compensation plan is designed to attract and retain individuals with the qualifications to manage and lead the Company as well as to motivate them to develop professionally and contribute to the achievement of our financial goals and ultimately create and grow our equity value.

Our named executive officers for 2015 were:

- Joel K. Manby, our President and Chief Executive Officer
- David F. D'Alessandro, our Chairman of the Board and our former Interim Chief Executive Officer
- Jim Atchison, our former President and Chief Executive Officer;
- Peter J. Crage, our Chief Financial Officer
- Marc G. Swanson, our Chief Accounting Officer and former Interim Chief Financial Officer;
- James M. Heaney, our former Chief Financial Officer; and
- our three other most highly compensated executive officers who served in such capacities at December 31, 2015, namely,
- Daniel B. Brown, our former Chief Parks Operations Officer
- G. Anthony (Tony) Taylor, our Chief Legal Officer, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary; and
- Anthony Esparza, our Chief Creative Officer

Leadership Changes

Effective January 15, 2015, Mr. Atchison resigned from his position as our President and Chief Executive Officer and David F. D'Alessandro was appointed by our Board of Directors (the "Board") to serve as our Interim Chief Executive Officer ("Interim CEO"). Following his resignation, Mr. Atchison remained involved in the Company as a member of our Board of Directors and in a consulting capacity to the Company for a three year term. On March 16, 2015, our Board appointed Joel K. Manby to serve as President, Chief Executive Officer and a Class I Director of the Company. Mr. Manby assumed his new positions, effective April 7, 2015 and Mr. D'Alessandro resigned from the position of Interim CEO, effective at such time. Mr. D'Alessandro continues to serve as a director and as Non-Executive Chairman of the Board.

On May 22, 2015, James M. Heaney gave notice of his resignation as Chief Financial Officer ("CFO") of the Company and as an officer and/or director of the Company's subsidiaries, effective as of June 1, 2015. Mr. Heaney remained as an employee of the Company through June 19, 2015, to assist in the transition to the Interim Chief Financial Officer ("Interim CFO"). On May 26, 2015, the Board appointed Marc G. Swanson, our Chief Accounting Officer, to serve as Interim CFO, effective as of June 1, 2015. Effective September 1, 2015, the Board appointed Peter J. Crage to serve as CFO. Mr. Swanson concluded his service as Interim CFO effective at such time, and continues to serve as Chief Accounting Officer of the Company.

On September 8, 2015, Anthony Esparza joined the Company as the Chief Creative Officer. Scott D. Helmstedter, the Company's former Chief Creative Officer, is no longer serving in such position but remains with the Company in a consulting capacity through December 31, 2016, and will assist with the creative content for the Company's new attractions and events as well as media and entertainment opportunities.

For information regarding our compensation decisions in connection with the leadership changes described above, see " Compensation Actions Taken During 2015 in Connection with Leadership Changes" below.

Effective as of April 1, 2016, Daniel B. Brown retired as Chief Parks Operations Officer of the Company. Mr. Brown will remain as an employee of the Company through May 31, 2016, to assist in the transition of his responsibilities. In connection with Mr. Brown's retirement, on February 18, 2016, our Board appointed John T. Reilly, SeaWorld San Diego Park President, to the position of Chief Parks Operations Officer of the Company effective as of April 1, 2016.

Executive Compensation Objectives and Philosophy

Our primary executive compensation objectives are to:

- attract, retain and motivate senior management leaders who are capable of advancing our mission and strategy and ultimately, create and maintain our long-term equity value. Such leaders must engage in a collaborative approach and possess the ability to execute our business strategy in an industry characterized by competitiveness, growth and a challenging business environment;
- reward senior management in a manner aligned with our financial performance; and
- align senior management's interests with our equity owners' long-term interests through equity participation and ownership.

To achieve our objectives, we deliver executive compensation through a combination of the following components:

- Base salary;
- Bonuses which are tied to company financial performance;
- Long-term incentive compensation;
- Broad-based employee benefits;
- Supplemental executive perquisites; and
- Severance benefits.

Our total executive compensation plan is inclusive of base salaries and other benefits and perquisites, including severance benefits, which are designed to attract and retain senior management talent. We also use annual cash incentive compensation and long-term equity incentives to ensure a performance-based delivery of pay that aligns, as closely as possible, the rewards of our named executive officers with the long-term interests of our equity-owners while enhancing executive retention.

Say-on-Pay and Say-on-Frequency Votes

Each year, the Compensation Committee considers the outcome of the stockholder advisory vote on executive compensation when making future decisions relating to the compensation of our named executive officers and our executive compensation program and policies. In 2015, stockholders showed strong support of our executive compensation programs, with nearly 100% of the votes cast for the approval of the "say-on-pay" proposal at our 2015 annual meeting of stockholders. The Compensation Committee is committed to continuing the alignment of our named executive officers' compensation with the Company's performance that the Compensation Committee believes elicited almost unanimous stockholder support.

As the Dodd-Frank Act requires that such stockholder votes on frequency be held at least once every six years, we currently expect the next stockholder vote on frequency to occur at the Company's 2020 annual meeting.

Compensation Determination Process

Role of the Compensation Committee and Management

The Compensation Committee of our Board of Directors is responsible for making all executive compensation decisions. The Compensation Committee is responsible for determining the compensation of our Chief Executive Officer and reviews and recommends compensation of other executive officers for our Board of Directors to approve. At the beginning of each performance cycle, the Compensation Committee approves financial goals designed to align executive pay with company performance and stockholder interests, provide competitive pay opportunities dependent on company performance, retain talent, create optimal stockholder value and mitigate material risk. The Compensation Committee has the authority to engage its own advisors to assist in carrying out its responsibilities.

Our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Human Resources Officer work closely with the Compensation Committee in managing our executive compensation program and they attend meetings of the Compensation Committee. Because of his daily involvement with the executive team, our Chief Executive Officer makes recommendations to the Compensation Committee regarding compensation for the executive officers other than himself. Our Chief Executive Officer does not participate in discussions with the Compensation Committee regarding his own compensation.

28

In March 2015, Mr. D'Alessandro provided the Compensation Committee with recommendations on 2015 total compensation opportunities for all executive officers other than himself. Mr. Atchison did not participate in the 2015 executive compensation cycle. In August 2015, Mr. Manby provided the Compensation Committee with recommendations on the compensation of Messrs. Swanson, Crage and Esparza. For information regarding our compensation decisions with respect to Messrs. Atchison, D'Alessandro, Manby, Swanson, Crage and Esparza, see " Compensation Actions Taken During 2015 in Connection with Leadership Changes" below.

Role of the Compensation Consultant

In 2015, the Compensation Committee engaged the services of Frederic W. Cook & Co., Inc. ("FW Cook"), an independent compensation consulting firm, to advise the Compensation Committee regarding the amount and types of compensation that we provide to our executive officers and how our compensation practices compared to the compensation practices of other companies. FW Cook reports directly to the Compensation Committee. FW Cook does not provide any services to us other than the services provided to the Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee believes that FW Cook does not have any conflicts of interest in advising the Compensation Committee under applicable SEC or NYSE rules.

As part of FW Cook's engagement, the Compensation Committee directed FW Cook to, among other things, compare our executive compensation with competitive market compensation data for a peer group consisting of companies engaged in the same or similar industries as our Company. Due to the limited number of "pure leisure facilities" public companies, our Compensation Committee determined that it was appropriate to include other companies in the compensation peer group that are in the entertainment, restaurant and hospitality industries and compete with us for executive talent.

The compensation peer group that the Compensation Committee used to benchmark named executive officer base salaries and target annual bonus opportunities was composed of the following 15 companies: Bob Evans Farms, LLC; Boyd Gaming Corporation; Cedar Fair, L.P.; The Cheesecake Factory Incorporated; Churchill Downs Incorporated; Cinemark Holdings, Inc.; Cracker Barrel Old Country Store, Inc.; Life Time Fitness; The Madison Square Garden Company; Panera Bread Company; Penn National Gaming, Inc.; Pinnacle Entertainment, Inc.; Regal Entertainment Group; Six Flags Entertainment Corporation; and Vail Resorts, Inc. (collectively, the "Compensation Peer Group").

The Compensation Peer Group data presented by FW Cook included information regarding base salary, actual and target bonus amounts, total annual compensation, long-term equity and cash incentives and total compensation. For each of these categories of information, FW Cook presented information comparing compensation of our executive officers to the compensation paid by the companies in the Compensation Peer Group at the 25th, 50th and 75th percentiles for comparable executive officer positions.

Based on the review of the competitive market compensation data, the Compensation Committee determined to set total annual cash compensation for our named executive officers, i.e., base salaries and target annual bonus opportunities, at a level that is generally between the 25th percentile and the median of the Compensation Peer Group, but to place a greater portion of the total cash compensation at-risk under our variable performance-based cash bonus opportunity as compared to the Compensation Peer Group.

In 2016, the Compensation Committee engaged the services of W.T. Haigh & Company ("Haigh"), an independent compensation consulting firm, to advise the Compensation Committee regarding the amount and types of compensation that we provide to our non-employee directors and how our compensation practices compared to the compensation practices of other companies. Haigh reports directly to the Compensation Committee. Haigh does not provide any services to us other than the services provided to the Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee believes that Haigh does not have any conflicts of interest in advising the Compensation Committee under

applicable SEC or NYSE rules.

Compensation Elements

The following is a discussion and analysis of each component of our executive compensation program.

Base Salary

Annual base salaries compensate our executive officers for fulfilling the requirements of their respective positions and provide them with a level of cash income predictability and stability with respect to a portion of their total compensation. We believe that the level of an executive officer's base salary should reflect such executive's performance, experience and breadth of responsibilities, salaries for similar positions within our industry and any other factors relevant to that particular job. Each executive officer is reviewed annually and is eligible for a discretionary annual merit increase. Base salaries may also be adjusted at other times to deal with competitive pressures or changes in job responsibilities.

29

In 2015, we determined not to increase base salaries for Messrs. Swanson, Heaney, Brown and Taylor. Base salaries for our named executive officers for 2015 and 2014 were as follows:

	2015	2014
Name	Base Salary	Base Salary
Joel K. Manby ⁽¹⁾	\$ 1,000,000	\$ —
David F. D'Alessandro ⁽²⁾	\$ —	\$ —
Jim Atchison ⁽³⁾	\$ 698,000	\$ 698,000
Peter J. Crage ⁽¹⁾	\$ 450,000	\$ —
Marc G. Swanson ⁽⁴⁾	\$ 230,640	\$ —
James M. Heaney ⁽³⁾	\$ 356,000	\$ 356,000
Daniel B. Brown	\$ 346,000	\$ 346,000
Anthony Esparza ⁽¹⁾	\$ 325,000	\$ —
G. Anthony (Tony) Taylor	\$ 362,000	\$ 362,000

- (1) Reflects annual base salary for each executive officer upon commencement of employment with the Company, which was determined by the Compensation Committee to be within a range of the median to 100% of comparable base salaries for equivalent positions based on a market analysis. The following represent the dates each respective executive officer commenced employment with the Company: Mr. Manby, April 7, 2015; Mr. Crage, September 1, 2015 and Mr. Esparza, September 8, 2015.
- (2) Mr. D'Alessandro did not receive an annual base salary in connection with his service as our Interim Chief Executive Officer.
- (3) Reflects annual base salary prior to the executive officer's separation from the Company. The following represent the dates each executive officer resigned from his respective position with the Company: Mr. Atchison, January 15, 2015 and Mr. Heaney, June 1, 2015.
- (4) Reflects annual base salary for Mr. Swanson. Mr. Swanson was appointed to serve as Interim Chief Financial Officer for the Company upon the resignation of Mr. Heaney on June 1, 2015 and served through September 1, 2015 when Mr. Crage was appointed Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Swanson's base salary was not adjusted for his service as Interim Chief Financial Officer; however, in August 2015, the Board approved additional compensation described below under "Bonuses Discretionary Bonuses," "Long-Term Incentive Compensation" and "Compensation Actions Taken During 2015 in Connection with Leadership Changes."

Bonuses

Annual Incentive Compensation. Annual incentive awards are available to all salaried exempt employees, including our named executive officers, under our annual bonus plan. The objectives of the bonus plan are to motivate these employees to achieve short-term performance goals and tie a portion of their annual compensation to our performance by rewarding them based on our overall performance.

Our named executive officers did not receive any payout in fiscal 2015 pursuant to our SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment Bonus Plan (the "2015 Bonus Plan"). Under the 2015 Bonus Plan, our named executive officers were eligible to receive a bonus with respect to fiscal 2015 payable 50% in cash and 50% in equity, based upon the Company's achievement of certain pre-established performance goals for fiscal 2015.

For the portion of the bonus payable in cash, 90% of each named executive officer's target annual cash incentive bonus was linked in a formulaic manner to the achievement of specific, objectively measurable financial goals, with a

discretionary portion making up the remaining 10%. Pursuant to our 2015 Bonus Plan, all of our named executive officers had 90% of the cash portion of their bonus linked to consolidated Adjusted EBITDA which was defined in the same way as the definition of Adjusted EBITDA used for covenant calculations under the credit agreement entered into on December 1, 2009 governing our senior secured credit facilities, which define Adjusted EBITDA as net income (loss) before interest expense, income tax expense (benefit), depreciation and amortization, as further adjusted to exclude certain unusual, non-cash, and other items permitted under such covenants. The discretionary portion of the cash bonus amount was based on the assessment of each named executive officer's individual performance relative to some or all of the following criteria: value created by the named executive officer's leadership of a functional area or multiple areas, success of a strategic business initiative led by the named executive officer, and employee feedback and satisfaction based on detailed annual evaluations.

For the portion of the bonus payable in equity, 100% of each named executive officer's target annual equity incentive bonus was linked in a formulaic manner to the achievement of specific, objectively measurable financial goals. All of the equity portion of the target annual bonus opportunity under the 2015 Bonus Plan was tied to the Company's achievement of a stretch consolidated Adjusted EBITDA target.

The consolidated Adjusted EBITDA targets were determined by our Board of Directors early in the year, after taking into consideration management's recommendations and our budget for the year.

Each participant in the 2015 Bonus Plan had a bonus potential target, computed as a percentage of salary. In March 2015, the Compensation Committee established target annual bonus opportunities for our named executive officers, payable, as described above, 50% in cash and 50% in equity. Similar to base salary, the Compensation Committee determined to maintain Messrs. Heaney, Swanson, Brown and Taylor at their current target annual bonus opportunities. The target annual bonus opportunity for each of Messrs. Manby, Crage and Esparza was set forth in their respective employment agreements. Mr. Atchison, who resigned as our CEO effective January 15, 2015 and Mr. D'Alessandro, who served as our Interim CEO from January 15, 2015 until April 7, 2015, were ineligible to participate in the 2015 Bonus Plan. The following table sets forth the target annual bonus opportunities for our named executive officers for 2015:

Name	2015 Bonus		
	2015 Base Salary	Potential Percentage	2015 Bonus Potential Target
Joel K. Manby ⁽¹⁾	\$1,000,000	150	% \$ 1,125,000
Peter J. Crage ⁽¹⁾	\$450,000	100	% \$ 150,000
Marc G. Swanson	\$230,640	50	% \$ 115,320
James M. Heaney ⁽²⁾	\$356,000	100	% \$ 356,000
Daniel B. Brown	\$346,000	100	% \$ 346,000
Anthony Esparza ⁽¹⁾	\$325,000	100	% \$ 108,333
G. Anthony (Tony) Taylor	\$362,000	100	% \$ 362,000

(1) For Messrs. Manby, Crage and Esparza, the 2015 Bonus Potential Target was pro-rated based on the named executive officer's commencement date and the portion of the fiscal year the named executive officer is employed with the Company. The following represent the dates each respective executive officer commenced employment with the Company: Mr. Manby, April 7, 2015; Mr. Crage, September 1, 2015; and Mr. Esparza, September 8, 2015.

(2) Reflects target annual bonus opportunity for Mr. Heaney prior to his separation from the Company on June 19, 2015. Due to Mr. Heaney's voluntary resignation from his position effective June 19, 2015, he was not eligible to receive any distribution under the 2015 Bonus Plan.

The consolidated Adjusted EBITDA goal for the portion of the bonus payable in cash was further delineated by the Compensation Committee into three levels of potential achievement: "Threshold," "Target," and "Maximum." Actual amounts payable under the 2015 Bonus Plan are based upon the degree to which the Consolidated Adjusted EBITDA goal has been achieved on this continuum, if at all. Achievement of performance at the "Threshold" level results in a weighted payment of no less than 60% of the target amount, achievement of performance at the "Target" level results in a weighted payment equal to 100% of the target amount, and achievement of performance at the "Maximum" level results in a weighted payment of no more than 150% of the target amount. For performance percentages between the

specified threshold, target and maximum levels, the resulting weighted payment would have been adjusted on a linear basis. For performance above the “Maximum” level, additional payments could have been awarded by our Compensation Committee with respect to our Chief Executive Officer and/or by our Board of Directors with respect to our other named executive officers upon a determination that an additional discretionary payment was warranted. As set forth in the following table, achievement of the financial goal – consolidated Adjusted EBITDA – had to be at or above 96% of target before the bonus pool would have been funded and no bonus payments would have been made under the financial goal or the discretionary portion unless the Company attained this minimum threshold of consolidated Adjusted EBITDA:

	Consolidated Adjusted EBITDA Target		Threshold		Target		Maximum	
Performance Percentage of Target	96	%	100	%	105	%		
Weighted Payment	60	%	100	%	150	%		

For fiscal 2015, for the portion of the bonus payable in cash, our Board of Directors set a consolidated Adjusted EBITDA target of \$390.0 million and our actual consolidated Adjusted EBITDA was \$361.1 million which was below 96% of target.

Unlike the portion of the bonus payable in cash, the portion of the bonus payable in equity paid out at a single level, 100% of target, if the Adjusted EBITDA target was achieved or exceeded. For performance below the Adjusted EBITDA target, participants in the 2015 Bonus Plan would not receive any payout with respect to the portion of the bonus payable in equity. For fiscal 2015, for the portion of the bonus payable in equity, our Board of Directors set a consolidated Adjusted EBITDA target of \$400.0 million. Our named executive officers were granted shares of performance-vesting stock which would vest upon achievement of this financial goal. Based on our actual consolidated Adjusted EBITDA of \$361.1 million, which was below target, the performance-vesting shares of restricted stock granted to our named executive officers in fiscal 2015 pursuant to the 2015 Bonus Plan were not earned and were therefore forfeited.

Discretionary Bonuses. From time to time, we may award discretionary bonuses in addition to any annual bonus payable under our annual bonus plan. In fiscal 2015, in compensation for his service as Interim CFO, we awarded Mr. Swanson a one-time discretionary cash bonus in an amount equal to \$130,000, payable in two installments: (i) \$73,120 was paid on September 1, 2015 and (ii) \$56,880 was paid in March 2016.

Long-Term Incentive Compensation

The long-term incentive award program is designed to drive Company performance, align the executives' interest with our stockholders and retain executives through vesting of awards over multiple years. Long-term incentive compensation is awarded under the Company's 2013 Omnibus Incentive Plan (the "Plan") and provides an opportunity for executive officers, including our named executive officers, and other key employees to increase their ownership interest in the Company through grants of equity-based awards. Under the Plan, equity-based awards may be awarded in the form of stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock, restricted stock units, performance shares and other stock based awards.

In 2015, the Compensation Committee made its first annual long-term equity award to our named executive officers. On March 3, 2015, our Board of Directors approved a long-term incentive plan (the "2015 Long-Term Incentive Plan") for Fiscal Year 2015. The Compensation Committee determined to award target award amounts under the 2015 Long-Term Incentive Plan for our named executive officers in amounts between the 25th percentile and the median of target long-term incentive award amounts of the Compensation Peer Group. The table below sets forth the target amounts awarded under the 2015 Long-Term Incentive Plan to each of our named executive officers.

Name ⁽¹⁾	Target 2015 Long-Term Incentive Plan Award
Joel K. Manby ⁽³⁾	\$ —
David F. D'Alessandro ⁽²⁾	\$ —
Peter J. Crage ⁽³⁾	\$ —
Marc G. Swanson	\$ 184,512
James M. Heaney ⁽⁴⁾	\$ 712,000
Daniel B. Brown	\$ 692,000
Anthony Esparza ⁽³⁾	\$ —
G. Anthony (Tony) Taylor	\$ 724,000

(1)

Mr. Atchison, who resigned as our Chief Executive Officer effective January 15, 2015, was not eligible to participate in the 2015 Long-Term Incentive Plan.

- (2) Mr. D'Alessandro, who served as our Interim Chief Executive Officer from January 15, 2015 until April 7, 2015, did not receive a long-term incentive award in 2015. For information about the equity award granted to Mr. D'Alessandro in connection with his service as our Interim Chief Executive Officer, see " Other Compensation Actions Taken During 2015 Appointment of Interim Chief Executive Officer" below.
- (3) As Messrs. Manby, Crage and Esparza did not commence their employment with us until April 7, 2015, September 1, 2015 and September 8, 2015, respectively, they did not participate in the 2015 Long-Term Incentive Plan. For information regarding the equity awards granted to them in connection with the commencement of their employment, see "Compensation Actions Taken During 2015 in Connection with Leadership Changes Mr. Manby Employment Agreement," " Mr. Crage Employment Agreement" and " Mr. Esparza Employment Agreement."
- (4) In connection with his resignation as our Chief Financial Officer effective as of June 1, 2015, Mr. Heaney forfeited all of the long-term incentive award granted to him in 2015.

32

The 2015 Long-Term Incentive Plan grants consisted of awards based on the mix and weighting set forth in the chart below assuming performance at 100% of target. The 2015 Long-Term Incentive Plan consists of a combination of nonqualified stock options (“stock options”), time-vesting restricted stock (“time-vesting shares”) and performance-vesting restricted stock with a three-year performance period (“performance-vesting shares”).

Award Type	Weighting	Vesting	Value Tied to
Stock Options	0.33	% Vest in equal annual installments on each of the first four anniversaries of the grant date, subject to continued employment; expire 10 years from grant date	Stock price appreciation
Time-Vesting Shares	0.33	% Vest in equal annual installments on each of the first four anniversaries of the grant date, subject to continued employment	Stock price
Performance-Vesting Shares	0.33	% Vest at the end of a 3-year period in an amount based on the level of performance achieved	Adjusted EBITDA (as defined below)

Each stock option, time-vesting share and performance-vesting share award is subject to restrictive covenants related to non-competition during employment and for a period of one year following any termination of employment and non-solicitation during employment and for a period of two years following any termination of employment as well as indefinite covenants relating to non-disparagement, confidentiality and intellectual property. These awards are subject to clawback or forfeiture if the recipient breaches any of the restrictive covenants or otherwise engages in any Detrimental Activity (as defined in the Plan).

In addition to the 2015 Long-Term Incentive Plan award granted to him in March 2015 described above, on September 1, 2015 Mr. Swanson received awards in accordance with the 2015 Long-Term Incentive Plan with a target grant date fair value equal to \$200,000 in connection with his service as Interim Chief Financial Officer.

Performance-Vesting Shares

The performance-vesting shares vest following the end of the three-year performance period beginning on January 1, 2015 and ending on December 31, 2017 based upon the percentage by which the Company’s Adjusted EBITDA (calculated in a manner consistent with Adjusted EBITDA as publicly disclosed in the Company’s earnings release for the applicable fiscal year) for each fiscal year of the performance period meets or exceeds the Adjusted EBITDA target for such fiscal year. One third of the total target number of performance-vesting shares (each such one-third, one “Tranche”) granted to each named executive officer is eligible to be earned based on the Company’s performance for each fiscal year of the performance period. The number of shares that vest with respect to each Tranche is based on the Company’s performance against the Adjusted EBITDA target set at the beginning of the fiscal year corresponding to such Tranche. To the extent that threshold performance is not met with respect to a particular Tranche, no shares will be earned with respect to such Tranche, even if performance targets for subsequent Tranches are met. Of each Tranche, the total number that will be earned based on the Company’s performance against the Adjusted EBITDA targets for the applicable fiscal year is based on the percentages shown in the table below. For actual performance between the specified threshold, target and maximum levels, the resulting number of shares that will be earned will be adjusted on a linear basis.

	Consolidated Adjusted EBITDA Target				
	Threshold	Target	Maximum		
Performance Percentage of Target	90%	100 %	110 %		
Weighted Payment	50%	100 %	200 %		

Our Board of Directors sets Adjusted EBITDA targets for each performance period that are designed to provide a reasonably achievable, but challenging, set of goals for our named executive officers and other 2015 Long-Term Incentive Plan participants.

For the fiscal 2015 performance period, our Board of Directors set a consolidated Adjusted EBITDA target of \$390.0 million and our actual consolidated Adjusted EBITDA was \$361.1 million which was above the threshold but below the target. As a result the Performance Percentage for the fiscal 2015 performance period was approximately 92.6% and the Weighted Payment earned for the fiscal 2015 performance period was approximately 63.0%.

For a discussion relating to the treatment of long-term incentive awards upon termination or a change in control, see “Treatment of Long-Term Incentive Awards upon Termination or Change in Control”.

Other Performance-Vesting Restricted Shares

Certain named executive officers have outstanding under both our Omnibus Incentive Plan and our previous incentive plan certain performance-vesting restricted shares (the “2.25x and 2.75x Performance Restricted shares”). The 2.25x Performance Restricted shares will vest if the executive is employed by the Company when and if certain investment funds affiliated with Blackstone receive cash proceeds (not subject to any clawback, indemnity or similar contractual obligation) in respect of their investment equal to (x) a 20% annualized effective compounded return rate on such funds’ investment and (y) a 2.25x multiple on such funds’ investment. The 2.75x Performance Restricted shares will vest if the executive is employed by the Company when and if such funds receive cash proceeds (not subject to any clawback, indemnity or similar contractual obligation) in respect of their investment equal to (x) a 15% annualized effective compounded return rate on such funds’ investment and (y) a 2.75x multiple on such funds’ investment. Certain 2.25x and 2.75x Performance Restricted shares awards have been modified to allow some employees separating from the Company to continue to be eligible to vest in their respective shares if the performance conditions are achieved after their employment ends as described in more detail below under “Potential Payments Upon Termination – Mr. Atchison” and “Potential Payments Upon Termination – Mr. Brown”.

Benefits and Perquisites

We provide to all our employees, including our named executive officers, broad-based benefits that are intended to attract and retain employees while providing them with retirement and health and welfare security. Broad-based employee benefits include:

- a 401(k) savings plan;
- medical, dental, vision, life and accident insurance, disability coverage, dependent care and healthcare flexible spending accounts; and
- employee assistance program benefits.

Under our 401(k) savings plan, we match a portion of the funds set aside by the employee. All matching contributions by us become vested on the two-year anniversary of the participant’s hire date. At no cost to the employee, we provide an amount of basic life and accident insurance coverage valued at two times the employee’s annual base salary. The employee may also select supplemental life and accident insurance, for a premium to be paid by the employee.

We also provide our executive officers with limited perquisites and personal benefits that are not generally available to all employees, such as executive relocation assistance and complimentary access to our theme parks. In addition, all employees with at least three weeks of vacation have the opportunity to participate in our vacation sell benefit program and sell back vacation days to us in order to offset personal health insurance premiums. We provide these limited perquisites and personal benefits in order to further our goal of attracting and retaining our executive officers. These benefits and perquisites are reflected in the “All Other Compensation” column of the Summary Compensation Table and the accompanying footnote in accordance with SEC rules.

Severance Arrangements

Our Board of Directors believes that a Key Employee Severance Plan (the “Severance Plan”) is necessary to attract and retain the talent necessary for our long-term success. Our Board of Directors views our Severance Plan as a recruitment and retention device that helps secure the continued employment and dedication of our named executive officers, including when we are considering strategic alternatives.

Each of our named executive officers is eligible for the Severance Plan benefits, however each of Messrs. Manby, Cragge and Esparza have separate severance provisions in their employment agreements that govern the terms of their severance (see “ Potential Payments Upon Termination” below for descriptions of these provisions). Under the terms of the Severance Plan, each participating named executive officer is entitled to severance benefits if his employment is terminated for any reason other than voluntary resignation or willful misconduct. The severance payments under the Severance Plan are contingent upon the affected executive’s execution of a release and waiver of claims, which contains non-compete, non-solicitation and confidentiality provisions. See “—Potential Payments Upon Termination” for descriptions of these arrangements.

Compensation Actions Taken During 2015 in Connection with Leadership Changes

Mr. Atchison Separation and Consulting Agreement

In connection with Mr. Atchison's resignation, the Company entered into a Separation and Consulting Agreement with Mr. Atchison, dated December 10, 2014 (the "Atchison Separation Agreement"), pursuant to which Mr. Atchison received the following upon his termination of employment, subject to Mr. Atchison's execution and non-revocation of a general release of claims in favor of the Company:

- a lump sum payment equal to \$2,443,000, which represents the cash severance payment that Mr. Atchison would have been entitled to receive upon a qualifying termination of employment under the Severance Plan;
- a lump sum cash payment in an amount equal to the value of the benefit continuation for 24 months following Mr. Atchison's termination of employment that he would have been entitled to receive upon a qualifying termination of employment under the Severance Plan;
- eligibility for continued vesting of Mr. Atchison's 515,406 outstanding and unvested 2.25x and 2.75x Performance Restricted shares (as if Mr. Atchison remained continuously employed with the Company), subject to achievement of the applicable performance conditions and, in the event favorable and generally applicable amendments are made to the terms of 2.25x and 2.75x Performance Restricted shares held by then active employees, the right to have his awards amended in the same manner;
- continued service on our Board of Directors during the Consulting Period (as defined below) in the role of Vice Chairman and entitlement to compensation and benefits generally provided to other non-employee directors on our Board of Directors; and
- engagement as a consultant to the Company for a three-year period beginning on the date of Mr. Atchison's termination (January 15, 2015) (the "Consulting Period") with an annual consulting fee of \$440,000, which consulting arrangement may be terminated by either Mr. Atchison or the Company at any time upon 30 days' written notice. If Mr. Atchison is not re-elected to our Board at an annual stockholders meeting of the Company, then his annual consulting fee will be increased by an amount equal to (i) the annual cash retainer plus (ii) the cash value of the annual equity award, in each case, paid to members of our Board of Directors. In the event Mr. Atchison voluntarily resigns from our Board and/or terminates the consulting arrangement, Mr. Atchison will not be entitled to receive any further payments of the consulting fee. In the event the Company terminates the consulting arrangement (other than due to Mr. Atchison's voluntary resignation from our Board of Directors) and/or Mr. Atchison ceases to be a member of our Board for any other reason, then Mr. Atchison will be entitled to receive a lump sum payment equal to the consulting fee (including any increase to the consulting fee, if applicable) that would have been paid to him for the remainder of the consulting term but for the termination by the Company.

On April 15, 2016, we entered into an amendment to the Atchison Separation Agreement with Mr. Atchison. For a summary of this amendment, see "Transactions with Related Persons -- Separation and Consulting Agreement with Former Chief Executive Officer".

Mr. D'Alessandro Interim CEO Compensation

In connection with Mr. D'Alessandro's appointment as Interim CEO, he received an award of 100,000 shares of restricted stock on January 15, 2015 which vested on April 7, 2015, the start date of the successor Chief Executive Officer, Joel K. Manby. While serving as Interim CEO, Mr. D'Alessandro did not receive an annual base salary or an annual bonus opportunity or participate in the Company's employee benefit plans, but Mr. D'Alessandro continued to receive the cash and equity compensation normally paid to non-employee directors in accordance with the Company's Outside Director Compensation Policy for his service on our Board of Directors and he continued to vest in his other existing equity awards while serving as Interim CEO.

Mr. Manby Employment Agreement

In connection with his appointment as our President and Chief Executive Officer, effective April 7, 2015, the Company entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Manby, dated March 16, 2015 (the “Manby Employment Agreement”). The Manby Employment Agreement provides for an initial three-year term ending on April 7, 2018 with automatic renewal of the employment term for successive one-year periods thereafter. During the employment term, Mr. Manby will serve as Chief Executive Officer of the Company and is entitled to:

- an annual base salary of \$1,000,000;
- an annual bonus opportunity under our annual bonus plan with a target amount equal to 150% of his base salary (which, for fiscal year 2015, was pro-rated based on the commencement date of his employment and the portion of the fiscal year he was employed by us); and
- beginning fiscal year 2016, annual long-term equity incentive awards with a target value equal to \$4,000,000 (based on grant date fair value).

In addition, upon his commencement of employment with the Company, Mr. Manby received a one-time grant of restricted stock with a grant date fair value of \$5,000,000 (the “Manby Sign-On Restricted Stock Grant”) and a one-time grant of stock options equal to the greater of either stock options equal to a number of shares of common stock of the Company subject to the stock options resulting in a grant date fair value equal to \$5,000,000 based on a Black-Scholes calculation (the “Manby Sign-On Option Grant”). The Manby Sign-On Restricted Stock Grant and the Manby Sign-On Option Grant will vest in four equal annual installments over the first four anniversaries of the date of grant. The Company will also reimburse Mr. Manby for certain expenses in connection with the relocation of his family to Orlando, Florida.

Pursuant to the terms of the Manby Employment Agreement, Mr. Manby is subject to non-competition and non-solicitation covenants that apply during his employment and for a period of (i) 24 months following the termination of his employment by the Company without cause or by him for good reason (or 36 months if such termination occurs during the initial three-year employment term or during the 12-month period following a change in control) or (ii) 12 months following the termination of his employment for any other reason. Mr. Manby is also subject to an indefinite confidentiality covenant, and the Company and Mr. Manby are subject to indefinite mutual non-disparagement covenants.

For information regarding the termination provisions of the Manby Employment Agreement, see “ Potential Payments Upon Termination Severance Arrangements and Restrictive Covenants Mr. Manby” below.

Mr. Swanson Interim CFO Compensation

On August 17, 2015, the Board approved the terms of Mr. Swanson’s compensation for his service as Interim CFO. In compensation for his service, on September 1, 2015, Mr. Swanson received a one-time discretionary cash bonus in an amount equal to \$130,000, payable as described above under “Elements of Compensation Bonuses Discretionary Bonuses” and equity incentive awards in accordance with the 2015 Long-Term Incentive Plan with a combined target grant date fair value equal to \$200,000 (see “Elements of Compensation Long-Term Incentive Compensation” above).

Mr. Cage Employment Agreement

In connection with his appointment as our CFO effective September 1, 2015, the Company entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Cage, dated August 17, 2015 (the “Cage Employment Agreement”). The Cage Employment Agreement provides for a three-year term ending on September 1, 2018 with automatic renewal of the employment term for successive one year periods thereafter. During the employment term, Mr. Cage will serve as CFO of the Company and is entitled to:

- an annual base salary of \$450,000;
- an annual bonus opportunity under our annual bonus plan with a target amount no less than 100% of his base salary (which, for fiscal year 2015, was pro-rated based on the commencement date of his employment and the portion of the fiscal year he was employed by us); and
- beginning fiscal year 2016, annual long-term equity incentive awards with a target value equal to \$900,000 (based on grant date fair value) subject to such vesting and other terms and conditions as the Compensation Committee shall determine and otherwise subject to the Compensation Committee's annual compensation review discretion and in accordance with the Company's Equity Award Grant Policy.

36

In addition, upon his commencement of employment with the Company, Mr. Crago received a one-time grant of restricted shares of common stock of the Company with a grant date fair value equal to \$2,000,000 (the “Crago Sign-On Restricted Stock Grant”) and a one-time grant of stock options covering a number of shares of common stock of the Company subject to the stock options resulting in a grant date fair value equal to \$500,000 based on a Black-Scholes calculation (the “Crago Sign-On Option Grant”). The Crago Sign-On Restricted Stock Grant and the Crago Sign-On Option Grant will each vest in four equal annual installments over the first four anniversaries of the date of grant. The Company will also reimburse Mr. Crago for certain expenses in accordance with the Company’s executive relocation policy.

Pursuant to the terms of the Crago Employment Agreement, Mr. Crago is subject to (i) non-competition covenants that apply during his employment and for a period of (a) 24 months following the termination of his employment by the Company without cause or by him for good reason during the initial three-year employment term or during the 12-month period following a change in control or (b) 12 months following the termination of his employment for any other reason and (ii) non-solicitation covenants for a period of 24 months following the termination of his employment with the Company for any reason. Mr. Crago is also subject to an indefinite confidentiality covenant, and the Company and Mr. Crago are subject to indefinite mutual non-disparagement covenants.

For information regarding the termination provisions of the Crago Employment Agreement, see “ Potential Payments Upon Termination Severance Arrangements and Restrictive Covenants Mr. Crago” below.

Mr. Esparza Employment Agreement

In connection with his appointment as our Chief Creative Officer effective September 8, 2015, the Company entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Esparza, dated August 16, 2015 (the “Esparza Employment Agreement”). The Esparza Employment Agreement provides for a three-year term ending on September 8, 2018. During the employment term, Mr. Esparza will serve as Chief Creative Officer of the Company and is entitled to:

- an annual base salary of \$325,000;
- an annual bonus opportunity under our annual bonus plan with a target amount no less than 100% of his base salary (which, for fiscal year 2015, was pro-rated based on the commencement date of his employment and the portion of the fiscal year he was employed by us); and
- beginning fiscal year 2016, annual long-term equity incentive awards with a target value equal to \$325,000 (based on grant date fair value) subject to such vesting and other terms and conditions as the Compensation Committee shall determine and otherwise subject to the Compensation Committee’s annual compensation review discretion and in accordance with the Company’s Equity Award Grant Policy.

In addition, upon his commencement of employment with the Company, Mr. Esparza received a one-time grant of restricted shares of common stock of the Company with a grant date fair value equal to \$2,250,000 (the “Esparza Sign-On Restricted Stock Grant”) and a one-time grant of stock options covering a number of shares of common stock of the Company subject to the stock options resulting in a grant date fair value equal to \$1,000,000 based on a Black-Scholes calculation (the “Esparza Sign-On Option Grant”). The Esparza Sign-On Restricted Stock Grant and the Esparza Sign-On Option Grant will each vest in four equal annual installments over the first four anniversaries of the date of grant.

The Esparza Employment Agreement also provided for a one-time cash sign-on bonus in an amount equal to \$10,000, payable on the first regularly scheduled payroll date following the commencement of his employment and, subject to his continued employment with the Company through March 15, 2016, a one-time supplemental cash bonus in an amount equal to \$275,000, which he received on April 15, 2016. In addition, the Esparza Employment Agreement provided that the Company reimburse Mr. Esparza for certain expenses in accordance with the Company’s executive relocation policy.

Pursuant to the terms of the Esparza Employment Agreement, Mr. Esparza is subject to (i) non-competition covenants that apply during his employment and for a period of (a) 24 months following the termination of his employment by the Company without cause or by him for good reason during the employment term or (b) 12 months following the termination of his employment for any other reason and (ii) non-solicitation covenants for a period of 24 months following the termination of his employment with the Company for any reason. Mr. Esparza is also subject to an indefinite confidentiality covenant, and the Company and Mr. Esparza are subject to indefinite mutual non-disparagement covenants.

For information regarding the termination provisions of the Esparza Employment Agreement, see “ Potential Payments Upon Termination Severance Arrangements and Restrictive Covenants Mr. Esparza” below.

Executive Compensation Governance Practices

Stock Ownership Guidelines

In order to align management and stockholder interests, the Company adopted stock ownership guidelines for our executive officers in 2014. In March 2015, the Company modified its stock ownership guidelines to provide as follows: (i) the Chief Executive Officer is required to hold shares of common stock with a value at least equal to six (6) times his base salary; (ii) each of the Chief Financial Officer, the Chief Parks Operations Officer and the Chief Legal Officer is required to hold shares of common stock with a value at least equal to three (3) times such executive's base salary; (iii) each of the Chief Creative Officer, the Chief Human Resources Officer and the Chief Zoological Officer is required to hold shares of common stock with a value at least equal to two (2) times such executive's base salary; and (iv) the Chief Accounting Officer and all other executive officers are required to hold shares of common stock with a value at least equal to one (1) time such executive's base salary. If an executive officer is not in compliance with the stock ownership guidelines, the executive is required to maintain ownership of at least 50% of the net after-tax shares acquired from the Company pursuant to any equity-based awards received from the Company, until such individual's stock ownership requirement is met. This retention requirement only applies to net after-tax shares acquired from the Company after the date of initial adoption of the stock ownership guidelines. Because an individual covered by the stock ownership guidelines must retain a percentage of net after-tax shares acquired from Company equity-based awards until such individual satisfies the specified guideline level of ownership, there is no minimum time period required to achieve the specified guideline level of ownership.

Hedging and Pledging Policies

The Company's Securities Trading Policy requires executive officers and directors to consult the Company's General Counsel prior to engaging in transactions involving the Company's securities. In order to protect the Company from exposure under insider trading laws, executive officers and directors are encouraged to enter into pre-programmed trading plans under Exchange Act Rule 10b5-1. The Company's Securities Trading Policy prohibits directors and executive officers from hedging or monetization transactions including, but not limited to, through the use of financial instruments such as exchange funds, variable forward contracts, equity swaps, puts, calls, and other derivative instruments, or through the establishment of a short position in the Company's securities. The Company's Securities Trading Policy limits the pledging of Company securities to those situations approved by the Company's General Counsel.

Equity Award Grant Policy

In March 2015, the Company adopted an Equity Award Grant Policy that formalized our process for granting equity-based awards to executive officers and employees. Under our Equity Award Grant Policy, we will generally grant equity awards on a regularly scheduled basis. If extraordinary circumstances arise such that the Compensation Committee or the Board determines it is advisable to grant an equity award at a time other than as set forth below, the Compensation Committee or the Board may consider and approve any such grant. Grants of equity awards to current employees (other than in connection with a promotion) will generally be made, if at all, on an annual basis on the second business day following the filing of the Company's Form 10-K, unless such day is not a day on which the New York Stock Exchange (or such other national securities exchange on which the Company's common stock is then principally listed) is open for trading, in which case it is expected to be the next such trading day. Grants of equity awards for new hires or promotions will be made on a quarterly basis on the first business day of the quarter following the quarter in which the date of hire or promotion occurred unless such day is not a day on which the New York Stock Exchange (or such other national securities exchange on which the Company's common stock is then principally listed) is open for trading, in which case it is expected to be the next such trading day. The Compensation Committee and the Board will consider and approve any such grants at an in-person or telephonic meeting or by unanimous

written consent of the Compensation Committee or the Board.

Compliance with IRS Code Section 162(m)

Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code limits the Company's federal income tax deduction for any compensation in excess of \$1 million paid to named executive officers except for the Chief Financial Officer. However, this provision does not apply to certain performance-based compensation as long as specified requirements are met.

The Company expects to be able to claim the benefit of a special exemption rule that applies to compensation paid (or compensation in respect of equity awards such as stock options or restricted stock granted) during a specified transition period following the IPO. This transition period may extend until the first annual stockholders meeting that occurs after the close of the third calendar year following the calendar year in which the IPO occurred, unless the transition period is terminated earlier under the Section 162(m) post-offering transition rules. At such time as we are subject to the deduction limitations of Section 162(m), we expect that the Compensation Committee will take the deductibility limitations of Section 162(m) into account in its compensation decisions; however, the Compensation Committee may, in its judgment, authorize compensation payments that are not exempt under Section 162(m) when it believes that such payments are appropriate to attract or retain talent.

Clawback Policy

The Compensation Committee does not have any specific “clawback” policy but intends to adopt one in conformity with the requirements of any final rules issued by the SEC. Under Section 304 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, if the Company is required to restate its financial statements due to material noncompliance with any financial reporting requirements as a result of misconduct, the Company’s Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer must reimburse the Company for (i) any bonus or other incentive-based or equity-based compensation received during the 12 months following the first public issuance of the non-complying document, and (ii) any profits realized from the sale of securities during those 12 months.

Summary Compensation Table

The following table provides summary information concerning compensation paid or accrued by us to or on behalf of our named executive officers for services rendered to us for the fiscal years indicated.

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary (\$) ⁽¹⁾	Bonus (\$) ⁽²⁾	Stock Awards (\$) ⁽³⁾	Option Awards (\$)	Incentive Plan Compensation (\$)	Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation ⁽⁴⁾		All Other Compensation (\$) ⁽⁵⁾	Total (\$)
							Earnings	Losses		
Joel K. Manby President and Chief Executive Officer	2015	735,256	—	5,552,735	4,999,997	—	—	18,757	—	11,306,745
David F. D'Alessandro Chairman and Former Interim Chief Executive Officer	2015	—	—	1,650,000	—	—	—	327,320	—	1,977,320
Jim Atchison Former Chief Executive Officer and President and Director	2015	29,083	—	—	—	—	—	2,588,510	—	2,617,593
	2014	698,000	—	—	—	—	—	18,931	—	716,931
	2013	622,250	57,460	1,094,639	—	755,820	—	22,508	—	2,552,677
Peter J. Crage Chief Financial Officer	2015	150,000	—	2,075,181	499,999	—	—	16,578	—	2,741,758
	2015	230,640	130,000	271,235	128,170	—	—	17,224	—	777,269

Marc G. Swanson Chief Accounting Officer and Former Interim Chief Financial Officer										
James M. Heaney Former Chief Financial Officer	2015	168,644	—	573,540	237,332	—	—	17,570	997,086	
	2014	356,000	—	—	—	—	—	10,407	366,407	
	2013	342,000	21,011	338,699	—	276,379	—	10,059	988,148	
Daniel B. Brown Chief Parks Operations Officer	2015	346,000	—	557,405	230,664	—	—	23,152	1,157,221	
	2014	346,000	—	—	—	—	—	23,430	369,430	
	2013	333,750	20,487	364,902	—	269,485	—	21,469	1,010,093	
Anthony Esparza Chief Creative Officer	2015	102,292	10,000	2,301,181	999,996	—	—	12,374	3,425,843	
G. Anthony (Tony) Taylor Chief Legal Officer and General Counsel	2015	362,000	—	583,191	241,331	—	—	24,396	1,210,918	
	2014	362,000	—	—	—	—	—	21,564	383,564	
	2013	337,500	20,865	145,941	—	274,455	—	16,040	794,801	

- (1) Amounts included in this column reflect actual salary earned during each fiscal year. Base salary for fiscal 2015 for Mr. Manby, Mr. Atchison, Mr. Crage, Mr. Heaney and Mr. Esparza was prorated to reflect the corresponding time in their respective positions for fiscal 2015.
- (2) Amount included in this column for Mr. Swanson for 2015 reflects the discretionary bonus awarded to him in connection with his service as Interim CFO. See “Compensation Discussion and Analysis Elements of Compensation Bonuses Discretionary Bonuses.” Amount included in this column for Mr. Esparza for 2015 reflects the one-time sign-on bonus awarded to Mr. Esparza. See “Compensation Discussion and Analysis Compensation Actions Taken During 2015 in Connection with Leadership Changes Mr. Esparza Employment Agreement.”
- (3) Amounts included in this column for 2015 reflect the aggregate grant date fair value of restricted stock awards calculated in accordance with Financial Accounting Standards Board Accounting Standards Codification Topic 718, Compensation-Stock Compensation (“Topic 718”) and utilizing the assumptions discussed in Note 18 to our consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2015. Amounts included in this column for Messrs. Manby, Crage, Swanson, Heaney, Brown, Taylor and Esparza reflect the aggregate grant date fair value of restricted stock granted in 2015 (including restricted stock granted under the 2015 Bonus Plan, the 2015 Long-Term Incentive Plan, the Manby Employment Agreement, the Crage Employment Agreement and the Esparza Employment Agreement, as applicable). Amounts shown with respect to performance-vesting restricted stock under the 2015 Long-Term Incentive Plan reflect only shares in the Tranche relating to the fiscal year 2015

performance period. Amount included in this column for Mr. D'Alessandro reflects \$1,650,000 relating to the grant date fair

40

value of restricted stock granted on January 15, 2015 in connection with Mr. D'Alessandro's appointment as Interim CEO. Amount included in this column for Mr. Atchison excludes 515,406 outstanding and unvested performance-based restricted stock awards which were modified to allow Mr. Atchison to remain eligible to vest if the performance conditions are met subsequent to Mr. Atchison's employment with the Company, in connection with Mr. Atchison's resignation effective January 15, 2015. The fair value at the date of modification for these shares was \$4,883,472 assuming achievement of the performance conditions. As the performance conditions were not deemed probable of vesting before or after the modification, there was no incremental fair value recorded in accordance with Topic 718.

(4) We have no pension benefits, nonqualified defined contribution or other nonqualified deferred compensation plans for executive officers.

(5) Amounts reported under All Other Compensation for fiscal 2015 include the following:

Description	Joel K. Manby	Jim Atchison	Peter J. Crage	Marc G. Swanson	James M. Heaney	Daniel B. Brown	Anthony Esparza	G. Anthony (Tony) Taylor
Contributions to our 401(k) plan on behalf of our named executive officers	\$—	\$9,275	\$—	\$8,159	\$6,142	\$9,252	\$—	\$9,229
Life and long-term disability insurance premiums paid by us on behalf of our named executive officers	1,813	1,777	1,598	919	1,307	1,273	1,211	1,326
Accrued vacation payout in connection with separation from the Company	—	69,800	—	—	6,846	—	—	—
Relocation expenses	16,944	—	14,980	—	—	—	11,163	—
Dollar value of vacation days sold to pay for personal health insurance premiums and other benefits under our vacation sell benefit program	—	10,738	—	7,984	—	11,977	—	12,531
Supplemental payment to offset healthcare in connection with resignation	—	53,920	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lump sum payment in connection with resignation	—	2,443,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	162	3,275	650	—	1,310

Accumulated dividends paid
upon vesting of

restricted stock

Total All Other Compensation	\$18,757	\$2,588,510	\$16,578	\$17,224	\$17,570	\$23,152	\$12,374	\$24,396
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Mr. D'Alessandro was appointed to serve as interim Chief Executive Officer ("Interim CEO") of the Company effective January 15, 2015 through April 7, 2015. While serving as Interim CEO, Mr. D'Alessandro did not receive an annual base salary but continued to receive the cash compensation normally paid to non-employee directors in accordance with the Company's Outside Director Compensation Policy. Amounts reported to Mr. D'Alessandro in this column include his annual retainer of \$200,000 along with pro-rated fees for service as Chairperson of the Compensation Committee for portions of fiscal year 2015 and \$119,987 relating to the grant date fair value of restricted stock granted in connection with Mr. D'Alessandro's annual equity award in accordance with the Company's Outside Director Compensation Policy. In addition, the named executive officers (and their spouses) each receive a Corporate Executive Card that entitles them and an unlimited number of guests to complimentary access to our theme parks. There is no incremental cost to us associated with the use of the Corporate Executive Card.

Grants of Plan-Based Awards in 2015

The following table provides information relating to grants of plan-based awards made to our named executive officers during 2015.

Name	Type	Date	Estimated Possible Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards ⁽¹⁾			Estimated Possible Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards			All Other	All Other	Grant	Date Fair Exercise Price of Stock and Option Awards ⁽²⁾
			Grant Threshold	Target	Maximum	Threshold	Target	Maximum	Stock	Option		
			(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(\$/Sh)	(\$)
Joel K. Manby	Annual Cash Incentive	1/1/2015	37,500	562,500	843,750	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Annual Equity Incentive	4/7/2015	—	—	—	—	27,623	—	—	—	—	552,736
	Stock Option	4/7/2015	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,089,324	20.01	4,999,997
	Time-Vesting Restricted Stock	4/7/2015	—	—	—	—	—	—	249,875	—	—	4,999,999
David F. D'Alessandro	Time-Vesting Restricted Stock	1/5/2015	—	—	—	—	—	—	100,000	—	—	1,650,000

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	Time-Vesting Restricted										
	Stock	6/10/2015	—	—	—	—	—	5,752	—	—	119,987
Jim Atchison			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Peter J. Crage											
	Annual Cash Incentive	4/5/2015	75,000	112,500	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Annual Equity										
	Incentive	6/11/2015	—	—	—	4,364	—	—	—	—	75,192
	Stock										
	Options	9/11/2015	—	—	—	—	—	—	134,048	17.23	499,999
	Time-Vesting Restricted										
	Stock	6/17/2015	—	—	—	—	—	116,076	—	—	1,999,989
Marc G. Swanson											
	Annual Cash Incentive	3/1/2015	4,596	57,660	86,490	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Annual Equity										
	Incentive	3/13/2015	—	—	—	3,041	—	—	—	—	57,657
	Stock										
	Options	3/13/2015	—	—	—	—	—	—	14,010	18.96	61,504
	Time-Vesting Restricted										
	Stock	3/13/2015	—	—	—	—	—	3,243	—	—	61,487
	Performance-Vesting										
	Restricted Stock	3/13/2015	—	—	1,621	3,243	6,487	—	—	—	40,992
	Stock										
	Options	9/11/2015	—	—	—	—	—	—	17,873	17.23	66,666
	Time-Vesting Restricted	9/17/2015	—	—	—	—	—	3,869	—	—	66,663

Stock⁽⁵⁾
Performance-Vesting

Restricted Stock	2015	—	—	1,934	3,869	7,738	—	—	—	44,436
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James M.
Heaney

Annual
Cash
Incentive