

DiamondRock Hospitality Co
Form DEF 14A
March 24, 2016

Table of Contents

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A
(Rule 14a-101)
INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT
SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION
PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(a) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT of 1934

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-11(c) or § 240.14a-12

DiamondRock Hospitality Company
(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box)

- No fee required
 - Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(4) and 0-11.
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 - 3) Filing Party:
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-

Table of Contents

March 24, 2016

Dear Stockholder:

You are cordially invited to attend the 2016 annual meeting of stockholders of DiamondRock Hospitality Company, a Maryland corporation, to be held on Tuesday, May 3, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. local time, at the Westin Washington D.C. City Center, 1400 M Street NW, Washington, D.C.

The attached proxy statement, accompanied by the notice of the meeting, describes the matters expected to be acted upon at the meeting. We urge you to review these materials carefully and to use this opportunity to take part in the affairs of DiamondRock Hospitality Company by voting on the matters described in this proxy statement. We hope that you will be able to attend the meeting.

Your vote is important. Whether or not you plan to attend the meeting, please complete the enclosed proxy card and return it as promptly as possible or authorize a proxy to vote your shares by calling the toll-free telephone number or via the Internet. The enclosed proxy card contains instructions regarding all three methods of voting. If you attend the meeting, you may continue to have your shares voted as you have previously instructed or you may withdraw your proxy at the meeting and vote your shares in person.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Sincerely,

MARK W. BRUGGER
Chief Executive Officer

Table of Contents

DIAMONDROCK HOSPITALITY COMPANY
3 Bethesda Metro Center
Suite 1500
Bethesda, MD 20814
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
To Be Held On May 3, 2016

The 2016 annual meeting of stockholders of DiamondRock Hospitality Company, a Maryland corporation, will be held on Tuesday, May 3, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. local time, at the Westin Washington D.C. City Center, 1400 M Street NW, Washington, D.C., for the following purposes:

1. To elect seven directors nominated by our Board of Directors, each to serve until the next annual meeting of our stockholders and until their respective successors are duly elected and qualify;
2. To consider and vote upon the approval of a non-binding advisory resolution on executive compensation;
3. To consider and vote upon the ratification of the appointment of KPMG LLP as independent auditors of DiamondRock Hospitality Company to serve for 2016;
4. To amend our charter to permit both the directors and the stockholders to amend our bylaws;
5. To approve a new equity incentive plan for DiamondRock Hospitality Company; and
6. To consider and act upon any other matters that may properly come before the annual meeting and at any postponement or adjournment thereof.

You may vote if you were a stockholder of record as of the close of business on March 1, 2016. If you do not plan to attend the meeting and vote your shares of common stock in person, please authorize a proxy to vote your shares in one of the following ways:

Use the toll-free telephone number shown on your proxy card (this call is toll-free if made in the United States or Canada);

Go to the website address shown on your proxy card and authorize a proxy via the Internet; or

Mark, sign, date and promptly return the enclosed proxy card in the postage-paid envelope.

Any proxy may be revoked at any time prior to its exercise at the annual meeting.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WILLIAM J. TENNIS
Corporate Secretary

March 24, 2016

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>INFORMATION ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>PROPOSAL 1: ELECTION OF DIRECTORS</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>PROPOSAL 2: NON-BINDING, ADVISORY VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>PROPOSAL 3: RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF KPMG AS INDEPENDENT AUDITORS</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>PROPOSAL 4: APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT OF CHARTER</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>PROPOSAL 5: APPROVAL OF 2016 EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>CORPORATE GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES AND BOARD MATTERS</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>The Board of Directors and Its Committees</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>Consideration of Director Nominees</u>	<u>23</u>
<u>Communications with our Board of Directors</u>	<u>25</u>
<u>Other Corporate Governance Matters</u>	<u>26</u>
<u>DIRECTOR COMPENSATION</u>	<u>28</u>
<u>Cash Compensation</u>	<u>28</u>
<u>Equity Compensation</u>	<u>29</u>
<u>Expenses and Perquisites</u>	<u>29</u>
<u>Stock Ownership Policy for Directors</u>	<u>29</u>
<u>COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS</u>	<u>31</u>
<u>Executive Summary</u>	<u>31</u>
<u>Compensation Committee Procedures, Compensation Consultant, Input of Named Executive Officers on Compensation and Stockholder Advisory Resolution</u>	<u>34</u>
<u>Compensation Elements</u>	<u>37</u>
<u>Severance Agreements</u>	<u>43</u>
<u>Discussion of Certain Compensation Policies</u>	<u>43</u>
<u>COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION</u>	<u>46</u>
<u>SENIOR EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION SUMMARY</u>	<u>47</u>
<u>INFORMATION ABOUT OUR INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS</u>	<u>56</u>
<u>AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>57</u>
<u>PRINCIPAL AND MANAGEMENT STOCKHOLDERS</u>	<u>58</u>
<u>OTHER MATTERS</u>	<u>60</u>
<u>APPENDIX A - CHARTER AMENDMENT</u>	<u>62</u>
<u>APPENDIX B - DIAMONDROCK HOSPITALITY COMPANY 2016 EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN</u>	<u>63</u>

Table of Contents

PROXY STATEMENT

DiamondRock Hospitality Company
3 Bethesda Metro Center
Suite 1500
Bethesda, MD 20814

This proxy statement and the enclosed proxy card are being mailed to stockholders on or about March 24, 2016 and are furnished in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the Board of Directors of DiamondRock Hospitality Company, a Maryland corporation (“DiamondRock” or the “Company”), for exercise at the 2016 annual meeting of our stockholders to be held on Tuesday, May 3, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. local time, at the Westin Washington D.C. City Center, 1400 M Street NW, Washington, D.C., and at any postponements or adjournment thereof.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING

What is the purpose of the annual meeting?

At the annual meeting, stockholders will be asked to vote upon the matters set forth in the accompanying notice of meeting, including the election of directors nominated by our Board of Directors, a non-binding, advisory vote on executive compensation, the ratification of the appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent auditors for 2016, the approval of an amendment to our charter, the approval of a new equity incentive plan and any other matters that may properly come before the annual meeting for a vote.

Who is entitled to vote?

If our records show that you were a stockholder of record (i.e., a “registered stockholder”) as of the close of business on March 1, 2016, which is referred to in this proxy statement as the record date, you are entitled to receive notice of the annual meeting and to vote the shares of common stock that you held as of the close of business on the record date.

Each outstanding share of common stock entitles its holder to cast one vote on each matter of record to be voted upon.

May I attend the meeting?

All stockholders of record of shares of our common stock at the close of business on the record date, or their designated proxies, are authorized to attend the annual meeting. Each stockholder and proxy will be asked to present a valid government-issued photo identification, such as a driver’s license or passport, before being admitted. If you are not a stockholder of record but you hold shares in “street name” (i.e., your shares are held in an account maintained by a bank, broker, or other nominee), then you should provide proof of beneficial ownership as of the record date, such as an account statement reflecting your stock ownership as of the record date, a copy of the voting instruction card provided by your broker, bank or other nominee, or other similar evidence of ownership. We reserve the right to determine the validity of any purported proof of beneficial ownership. If you do not have proof of ownership, you may not be admitted to the annual meeting. Cameras, recording devices and other electronic devices will not be permitted, and attendees may be subject to security inspections and other security precautions.

How do I vote?

Voting in Person at the Meeting

If you are a registered stockholder and attend the annual meeting, you may vote in person at the meeting. If your shares of common stock are held in street name and you wish to vote in person at the meeting, you must obtain a legal proxy from the broker, bank or other nominee that holds your shares of common stock of record.

Voting by Proxy for Shares Registered Directly in Your Name

If you are a registered stockholder, you may instruct the proxy holders named in the enclosed proxy card how to vote your shares of common stock by using the toll-free telephone number or the website listed on the proxy card or by signing, dating and mailing the proxy card in the postage-paid envelope provided.

Table of Contents

Vote by Telephone. You may authorize a proxy to vote your shares by telephone by calling the toll-free number listed on the accompanying proxy card. Authorizing a proxy by telephone is available 24 hours per day until 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on May 2, 2016. When you call, please have your proxy card in hand, and you will receive a series of voice instructions that will allow you to authorize a proxy to vote your shares of common stock. You will be given the opportunity to confirm that your instructions have been properly recorded. **IF YOU AUTHORIZE A PROXY BY TELEPHONE, YOU DO NOT NEED TO RETURN YOUR PROXY CARD.**

Vote by Internet. You also have the option to authorize a proxy to vote your shares via the Internet. The website for authorizing a proxy is printed on your proxy card. Authorizing a proxy by Internet is available 24 hours per day until 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on May 2, 2016. As with telephone voting, you will be given the opportunity to confirm that your instructions have been properly recorded. **IF YOU AUTHORIZE A PROXY VIA THE INTERNET, YOU DO NOT NEED TO RETURN YOUR PROXY CARD.**

Vote by Mail. If you would like to authorize a proxy to vote your shares by mail, mark, sign and date your proxy card and return in the postage-paid envelope provided.

Voting by Proxy for Shares Registered in Street Name

If your shares of common stock are held in street name, you will receive instructions from your broker, bank or other nominee which you must follow in order to have your shares of common stock voted in accordance with your instructions. The broker, bank or other nominee for your shares is required to follow your voting instructions. Accordingly, you will need to follow the directions you receive from your broker, bank or other nominee. Under the current rules of the New York Stock Exchange, or NYSE, if you do not give instructions to your broker, bank or other nominee, it will still be able to vote your shares with respect to certain “discretionary” items, but will not be allowed to vote your shares with respect to certain “non-discretionary” items. The ratification of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm (proposal three) is considered to be a discretionary item under the NYSE rules and your broker, bank or other nominee will be able to vote on that item even if it does not receive instructions from you. The uncontested election of directors (proposal one), the non-binding, advisory resolution on executive compensation (proposal two), the resolution to approve an amendment to our charter (proposal 4), and the resolution to approve a new equity incentive plan (proposal 5) are “non-discretionary” items. If you do not instruct your broker, bank or other nominee how to vote with respect to these items, it may not vote with respect to these proposals and those votes will be counted as “broker non-votes.” Broker non-votes are shares that are held in street name by a broker, bank or other nominee that returns a properly executed proxy but does not have discretionary authority to vote on a particular matter.

What constitutes a quorum?

The presence, in person or by proxy, of stockholders entitled to cast a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast at the annual meeting constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business at the annual meeting. As of the record date, there were 201,528,673 shares of common stock outstanding and entitled to vote at the annual meeting. Votes withheld for director nominees, abstentions or broker non-votes will be counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present for the transaction of business at the annual meeting. If a quorum is not present at the scheduled time of the meeting, the chairman may adjourn the meeting to another place, date or time until a quorum is present. The place, date and time of the adjourned meeting will be announced when the adjournment is taken and no other notice will be given unless the adjournment is to a date more than 120 days after the original record date or if, after the adjournment, a new record date is fixed for the adjourned meeting.

What is householding?

The rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, allow for householding, which is the delivery of a single copy of an annual report and proxy statement to any address shared by two or more stockholders. Duplicate mailings can be eliminated by the consent of the household stockholders, or through implied consent if (1) it is believed that the stockholders are members of the same family, (2) the stockholders are notified that householding is to be used and (3) the stockholders do not request continuation of duplicate mailings. If you own shares of common stock in your own name as a holder of record, householding will not apply to your shares. If your shares of common stock are held in street name, depending upon the practices of your broker, bank or other nominee, you may need to

contact them directly to discontinue duplicate mailings to your address. If you wish to revoke your consent to householding, you must contact your broker, bank or other nominee.

Table of Contents

If you wish to request extra copies free of charge of our annual report or proxy statement, please send your request to DiamondRock Hospitality Company, 3 Bethesda Metro Center, Suite 1500, Bethesda, MD 20814, Attention: Corporate Secretary; or call us with your request at (240) 744-1150.

Will other matters be voted on at the meeting?

We are not currently aware of any other matters to be presented at the annual meeting other than those described in this proxy statement. If any other matters not described in the proxy statement are properly presented at the meeting, any proxies received by us will be voted in the discretion of the proxy holders.

May I revoke or change my proxy instructions?

You may revoke or change your proxy at any time before it has been exercised by: (1) filing a written revocation with our Corporate Secretary, c/o DiamondRock Hospitality Company, 3 Bethesda Metro Center, Suite 1500, Bethesda, MD 20814; (2) authorizing a new proxy by telephone, Internet or proxy card after the date of the previously submitted proxy; or (3) appearing in person, revoking your proxy and voting by ballot at the annual meeting.

Any stockholder of record as of the record date attending the annual meeting may vote in person whether or not a proxy has been previously given, but the presence (without further action) of a stockholder at the annual meeting will not constitute revocation of a previously given proxy.

How can I access the proxy materials?

For your review, our 2015 annual report, including a copy of our annual report filed with the SEC on Form 10-K (including financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015), is being mailed to stockholders concurrently with this proxy statement. Although our annual report is not part of the proxy solicitation material, we recommend that you review our 2015 annual report prior to voting.

Our proxy statement, form of proxy card and annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015 are available at http://www.drhc.com/annual_meeting.html.

How do I learn the results of the vote?

Voting results of the annual meeting will be disclosed on a Form 8-K filed with the SEC within four business days after the annual meeting.

Table of Contents

PROPOSAL 1: ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Introduction

Seven directors will be elected at our 2016 annual meeting of stockholders to serve until our 2017 annual meeting of stockholders and until their respective successors are duly elected and qualify.

Each nominee for director was recommended by our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, which considered a number of factors, including the criteria for Board of Directors membership approved by our Board of Directors, and then was nominated by our Board of Directors. Each of the nominees is a current member of our Board of Directors. The nominees are Daniel J. Altobello, Mark W. Brugger, Timothy R. Chi, Maureen L. McAvey, William W. McCarten, Gilbert T. Ray and Bruce D. Wardinski. As previously announced, W. Robert Grafton will not seek re-election at our 2016 annual meeting. As a result, Mr. Grafton will retire from our Board of Directors effective as of the 2016 annual meeting and our Board of Directors will be reduced to seven directors.

Our Board of Directors anticipates that the nominees will serve, if elected, as directors. However, if any person nominated by our Board of Directors is unable to serve or for good cause will not serve, the proxies will be voted for the election of such other person as our Board of Directors may recommend unless our Board of Directors alternatively acts to reduce the size of our Board or maintain a vacancy on our Board in accordance with our bylaws.

Vote Required

The affirmative vote of a majority of all the votes cast at a meeting at which a quorum is present is necessary for the election of a director in an uncontested election, which means that the number of shares voted for a nominee must exceed the number of shares voted against the nominee. If you do not instruct your broker, bank or other nominee how to vote with respect to this proposal, your broker, bank or other nominee may not cast votes on your behalf with respect to this proposal. For purposes of the election of directors, abstentions and broker non-votes, if any, will not be counted as votes cast for or against a nominee's election. If a nominee who is already serving as a director is not elected pursuant to this standard, the director must tender his or her resignation to our Board, and our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will make a recommendation to our Board on whether to accept or reject the recommendation or take other action.

Recommendation

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR EACH OF THE NOMINEES. PROPERLY AUTHORIZED PROXIES SOLICITED BY OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL BE VOTED FOR EACH OF THE NOMINEES UNLESS INSTRUCTIONS TO WITHHOLD ARE GIVEN.

Information Regarding the Nominees and Executive Officers

The following biographical descriptions set forth certain information with respect to the nominees for election as directors at our 2016 annual meeting and the executive officers who are not directors, based on information furnished to us by each nominee and executive officer as of March 1, 2016. The biographical description for the nominees also includes the specific experience, qualifications, attributes and skills that led to the conclusion by our Board of Directors that such person should serve as a director of the Company.

Certain information regarding our directors and senior executive officers is set forth below.

Table of Contents

Name	Age	Position
William W. McCarten*	67	Chairman of our Board of Directors and Director
Mark W. Brugger	46	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director
Daniel J. Altobello*	75	Director
Timothy R. Chi*	46	Director
Maureen L. McAvey*	69	Director
Gilbert T. Ray*	71	Director
Bruce D. Wardinski*	55	Lead Director
Sean M. Mahoney	44	Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer
Robert D. Tanenbaum	49	Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
Troy G. Furbay	48	Executive Vice President and Chief Investment Officer
William J. Tennis	61	Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary

* Independent Director

The following is a summary of certain biographical information concerning our nominees and senior executive officers:

Nominees

William W. McCarten has served as our Chairman of the Board of Directors and has been a member of our Board of Directors since our formation in 2004. Mr. McCarten was also our Chief Executive Officer from our formation in 2004 until his retirement in September 2008. He also serves on the Board of Directors of Cracker Barrel Old Country Store as well as Marriott Vacations Worldwide Corporation. Mr. McCarten is a trustee of The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, a not-for-profit land conservation enterprise.

Mr. McCarten worked for the Marriott Corporation, or Marriott International, Inc., and its related entities for over 25 years until January 2004. Among his many positions during those 25 years, Mr. McCarten served as the Chief Executive Officer of HMSHost Corporation, formerly Host Marriott Services Corporation, a publicly-held developer and operator of restaurant and retail concessions in travel and entertainment venues listed on the NYSE from 1995 to 2000. In addition, Mr. McCarten served as non-executive Chairman of HMSHost Corporation from 2000 to 2001. Our Board of Directors has determined that Mr. McCarten's qualifications to serve on our Board of Directors include his extensive experience in the lodging industry with over 25 years of experience with the Marriott organization, a leading worldwide hotel brand, franchise and management company. Mr. McCarten has developed a broad network of hotel industry contacts and relationships, including relationships with hotel owners, operators and other key industry participants. Prior to joining Marriott, Mr. McCarten was an accountant with Arthur Andersen & Co. from 1970 to 1979.

Mr. McCarten received his B.S. in Accounting from the McIntire School of Commerce at the University of Virginia in 1970, and he served on the Advisory Board of the McIntire School from 1981 to 1996.

Mark W. Brugger has served as our Chief Executive Officer since September 1, 2008 and is a member of our Board of Directors. Mr. Brugger was a co-founder of the Company having served as Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer prior to being promoted to Chief Executive Officer. He has received recognition for his work at DiamondRock, including being named to Forbes list of America's Most Powerful CEOs 40 and Under. Additionally, he was named a finalist for the E&Y Entrepreneur of the Year Award. In 2013, Mr. Brugger became a member of the Board of Directors of Chambers Street Properties, formerly a publicly-traded company listed on the NYSE, and he resigned from the Board of Directors of Chambers Street Properties in 2015, shortly before it merged with another publicly-traded company.

Previously, Mr. Brugger served as Vice President of Project Finance for Marriott International, Inc. from 2000 to 2004. At Marriott, Mr. Brugger also served as the Chief Executive Officer of their synthetic fuels company. From 1997 to 2000, Mr. Brugger served as Vice President of Investment Sales of Transwestern Commercial Services, formerly the Carey Winston Company. From 1995 to 1997, Mr. Brugger was the Land Development Director for Brookfield Residential Properties, Inc. (formerly Coscan Washington, Inc.). Mr. Brugger received a Juris Doctorate

cum laude from American University Washington College School of Law in 1995 and a B.A. from the University of Maryland at College Park in 1992. Our Board of Directors has determined that Mr. Brugger's qualifications to serve on our Board of Directors include his extensive experience in real estate and finance with over 20 years of experience. His experience includes serving as the Chief Financial Officer of DiamondRock for four years, as well as several billion dollars of real estate and finance transactional experience, including structured finance transactions, acquisitions, dispositions and financings of investment properties.

Table of Contents

Daniel J. Altobello has been a member of our Board of Directors since July 2004. Mr. Altobello has been Chairman of Altobello Family LP since 1991. Mr. Altobello also served as chairman of the board of directors of Onex Food Services, Inc., the parent corporation of Caterair International, Inc. and LSG/SKY Chefs from 1995 to 2001. From 1989 to 1995, Mr. Altobello was the Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President of Caterair International Corporation. He currently serves on the board of directors of MESA Air Group, Arlington Asset Investment Corp and NorthStar Healthcare Income, Inc., a REIT. Our Board of Directors has determined that Mr. Altobello's qualifications to serve on our Board of Directors include his experience as a CEO combined with his operational and corporate governance expertise.

Timothy R. Chi has been a member of our Board of Directors since June 2015. Mr. Chi is the co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of WeddingWire Inc., a leading global marketplace serving the wedding and events industry worldwide. Previously, Mr. Chi co-founded Blackboard Inc. in 1998 where he pioneered many of Blackboard's product and strategic initiatives and played a critical role in the success of the company through its public offering in 2004. Mr. Chi holds a B.S. degree in Operations Research/Industrial Engineering from Cornell University and a Master's of Science degree in Engineering Management from Tufts University. Our Board of Directors has determined that Mr. Chi's qualification to serve on our Board of Directors include his experience as a CEO of a major corporation, co-founder of Blackboard, Inc., and his depth of knowledge of social media and the tech industry.

Maureen L. McAvey has been a member of our Board of Directors since July 2004. Ms. McAvey is a Senior Resident Fellow for the Urban Land Institute, or ULI, in Washington, DC, where she has worked in various positions since 2001. ULI is a premier research and education organization within the real estate and land use industry. Ms. McAvey was a member of the board of trustees of ULI from 1995 to 2001. Prior to joining ULI, from 1998 to 2001, Ms. McAvey was Director, Business Development, for Federal Realty Investment Trust, an owner and manager of retail developments and mixed-use developments and a publicly-traded company listed on the NYSE. Ms. McAvey also has served as the Director of Development for the City of St. Louis, a cabinet-level position in the Mayor's office and she was Executive Director of the St. Louis Development Corporation. Prior to working for the City of St. Louis, Ms. McAvey led the real estate consulting practices in Boston for Deloitte & Touche and Coopers & Lybrand. Ms. McAvey directed the west coast operations of Carley Capital Group, a national development firm and also has experience as a private developer. Ms. McAvey holds two masters degrees, one from the University of Minnesota and one from the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. Our Board of Directors has determined that Ms. McAvey's qualification to serve on our Board of Directors include her extensive experience in the real estate industry in both the private and public sectors.

Gilbert T. Ray has been a member of our Board of Directors since July 2004. Mr. Ray was a partner in the law firm of O'Melveny & Myers LLP until his retirement in 2000. He practiced corporate law for 28 years and has extensive experience with conventional corporate and tax exempt transactions, as well as international finance. He served as counsel in connection with numerous securities offerings, acquisitions, dispositions and mergers. In addition, Mr. Ray is a member of the board of directors of DineEquity, Inc., a publicly-traded company listed on the NYSE, and formerly served as a member of the board of directors of three other publicly-traded companies. Our Board of Directors has determined that Mr. Ray's qualifications to serve on our Board of Directors include (i) his years of extensive experience in the legal industry as an advisor, (ii) his valuable insights with respect to compensation and corporate governance matters that face our Board of Directors and the Company, and (iii) his perspective on board deliberations drawing from lessons learned from his experience serving on other boards.

Bruce D. Wardinski has been a member of our Board of Directors since January 2013. Mr. Wardinski is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Playa Hotels & Resorts. Prior to forming Playa, Mr. Wardinski served as CEO of Barceló Crestline Corporation ("BCC") from June 2002 until December 2010. He also served as Chairman, President and CEO of Crestline Capital Corporation (NYSE: CLJ) prior to BCC's acquisition in June 2002. In 2003, Mr. Wardinski formed and became Chairman of the Board of Highland Hospitality Company (NYSE: HIH). He has also worked with Host Hotels & Resorts, Inc. (NYSE: HST) in the role of Senior Vice President and Treasurer. Our Board of Directors has determined that Mr. Wardinski's qualification to serve on our Board of Directors include his extensive experience in the hospitality industry with both private and public companies.

Senior Executive Officers

Sean M. Mahoney is our Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer since September 2008. Previously, he served as our Senior Vice President, Chief Accounting Officer and Corporate Controller from his hiring in August 2004 until September 1, 2008. Prior to that, Mr. Mahoney served as a senior manager with Ernst & Young LLP in McLean, Virginia. During 2002 and 2003, Mr. Mahoney served as a Director in the Dublin, Ireland audit practice of KPMG, LLP. From 1993 to 2001, Mr. Mahoney worked in the audit practice of Arthur Andersen LLP. Mr. Mahoney is a member of

Table of Contents

the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and is a Virginia C.P.A. Mr. Mahoney received a B.S. from Syracuse University in 1993.

Robert D. Tanenbaum is our Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer since May 2013. Previously, he was the Principal of Madison Hotel Advisors, LLC, which he founded in 2004. Prior to founding Madison Hotel Advisors, LLC, Mr. Tanenbaum was a Vice President of Asset Management with Host Hotels & Resorts from 1996 to 2004. His experience prior to that includes PKF Consulting in San Francisco, CA and Four Seasons Hotels in Chicago, IL and Maui, HI. Mr. Tanenbaum is an active member of the Hospitality Asset Managers Association and is a graduate of the Pennsylvania State University with a B.S. degree with High Distinction in Hotel Restaurant and Institutional Management.

Troy G. Furbay is our Executive Vice President and Chief Investment Officer since April 2014. Previously, Mr. Furbay served as Chief Investment Officer at Loews Hotels & Resorts for four years. Prior to joining Loews, Mr. Furbay was Senior Vice President, Acquisitions and Development at Kimpton Hotels for nine years and prior to that he served in a variety of positions with hospitality companies. Mr. Furbay received a B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington in 1989 and an M.B.A. from Fordham University in 1995.

William J. Tennis is our Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary since January 2010. Previously, Mr. Tennis worked for Marriott International, Inc. and its related entities for 17 years from 1992 to 2009, initially as Assistant General Counsel in the Law Department and then as Senior Vice President responsible for the Global Asset Management Group. Prior to joining Marriott, Mr. Tennis was an associate in law firms in New York. Mr. Tennis received a Juris Doctorate from New York University School of Law in 1981 and a B.A. magna cum laude from Harvard College in 1976.

Table of Contents

PROPOSAL 2: NON-BINDING, ADVISORY VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Proposal

In accordance with Section 14A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”) the Company is providing stockholders with the opportunity to vote on a non-binding, advisory basis, on the compensation of our named executive officers as disclosed in this proxy statement in accordance with the SEC’s rules. This is commonly known as, and is referred to in this proxy statement as, a “say-on-pay” proposal or resolution. This say-on-pay proposal gives our stockholders the opportunity to express their views on our named executive officers’ compensation. We are asking our stockholders to indicate their support for our named executive officers’ compensation as described in this proxy statement. This vote is not limited to any specific item of compensation, but rather addresses the overall compensation of our named executive officers and our philosophy, policies and practices relating to their compensation as described in this proxy statement in accordance with the SEC’s rules.

As described in detail under the heading “Compensation Discussion and Analysis,” our executive compensation programs are designed to attract, retain and motivate our named executive officers, who are critical to our success. Our compensation program is designed to create incentives for our named executive officers to maximize long-term stockholder value. Under these programs, our named executive officers are rewarded for the achievement of our annual, long-term and strategic objectives, and the realization of increased stockholder value. Please refer to the “Compensation Discussion and Analysis” in this proxy statement for additional details about our executive compensation programs, including information about the fiscal year 2015 compensation of our named executive officers.

Text of Resolution

“RESOLVED, that the stockholders of the Company approve, on a non-binding, advisory basis, the compensation of the named executive officers, as disclosed in this proxy statement pursuant to Item 402 of Regulation S-K, including the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, compensation tables and narrative disclosure.”

Vote Required; Effect of Vote

The affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast on this proposal will be required for adoption of this resolution. Abstentions and broker non-votes will not be treated as votes cast and, accordingly, will have no effect on the outcome of the vote on this proposal.

The say-on-pay resolution is non-binding and advisory, and therefore will not have any binding legal effect on the Company, our Board of Directors or our Compensation Committee. Furthermore, because this non-binding, advisory resolution primarily relates to compensation of named executive officers that has already been paid or contractually committed, there is limited opportunity for us to revisit these decisions. However, our Board of Directors and our Compensation Committee value the views of our stockholders and will consider the results of the vote on this proposal in its future decisions regarding the compensation of our named executive officers.

Recommendation

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR ADOPTION OF THIS RESOLUTION. PROPERLY AUTHORIZED PROXIES SOLICITED BY OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL BE VOTED FOR ADOPTION OF THIS RESOLUTION UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED.

Table of Contents

**PROPOSAL 3: RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF KPMG
AS INDEPENDENT AUDITORS**

Proposal

Our Audit Committee has unanimously appointed KPMG LLP as DiamondRock's independent auditor for the current fiscal year, and our Board of Directors is asking stockholders to ratify that appointment. Although current law, rules and regulations, as well as the charter of our Audit Committee, require DiamondRock's independent auditor to be engaged, retained and supervised by our Audit Committee, our Board of Directors considers the selection of the independent auditor to be an important matter of stockholder concern and is submitting the appointment of KPMG LLP for ratification by stockholders as a matter of good corporate practice. Representatives of KPMG LLP will be present at the annual meeting and will be given the opportunity to make a statement, if they desire to do so, and to respond to appropriate questions.

Vote Required

The appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent auditor will be ratified if this proposal receives a majority of the votes cast, whether in person or by proxy, on this proposal. For purposes of the vote on the ratification of the appointment of KPMG LLP as DiamondRock's independent auditor for 2016, abstentions will not be counted as votes cast and will have no effect on the result of the vote.

Recommendation

**OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR RATIFICATION OF THE
APPOINTMENT OF KPMG LLP AS INDEPENDENT AUDITORS OF DIAMONDROCK FOR 2016.**

Table of Contents

PROPOSAL 4: APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT OF CHARTER

Proposal

Our Board of Directors has adopted and declared advisable, and recommends for your approval, an amendment to the Articles of Amendment and Restatement of DiamondRock Hospitality Company (our “Charter”) to remove the last sentence of Article VI, Section 6.5 in order to allow both directors and stockholders to amend our bylaws (the “Proposed Charter Amendment”). Currently, the last sentence of Article VI, Section 6.5 of our Charter provides the following: “The Board of Directors shall have the exclusive power to adopt, alter, or repeal any provision of the Bylaws and to make new Bylaws.”

Our Board of Directors is committed to strong and effective corporate governance and monitors regularly our corporate governance policies and practices. At our 2015 annual meeting, a majority of our stockholders supported a non-binding stockholder proposal requesting that our Board of Directors take all steps necessary to allow our stockholders to amend our bylaws by a vote of the majority of shares outstanding. After considering the results of the non-binding stockholder vote in 2015, as well as discussions with our investors, our Board of Directors determined that it is advisable to submit the Proposed Charter Amendment to our stockholders for approval.

Additional Information

The general description of the Proposed Charter Amendment set forth above is qualified in its entirety by reference to the text of the Proposed Charter Amendment, which is attached as Appendix A to this proxy statement and is incorporated by reference herein. Deletions to our existing charter are indicated by strike outs. If approved by the requisite vote, the Proposed Charter Amendment will become effective upon the filing of Articles of Amendment with the State Department of Assessments and Taxation in Maryland (the “SDAT”). If the Proposed Charter Amendment is not approved by the requisite vote, then the Articles of Amendment will not be filed with the SDAT and our Board of Directors shall continue to have the exclusive power to adopt, alter or repeal any provision of the bylaws pursuant to our Charter.

Currently, our bylaws (our “Existing Bylaws”) provide that, with the exception of provisions in our Existing Bylaws relating to the business combination and control share provisions of the Maryland General Corporation Law (the “MGCL”) and the waiver of the ownership limitations set forth in our Charter, which provisions may not be amended without stockholder approval, our Board of Directors has the exclusive power to adopt, alter or repeal any provision of the bylaws and to make new bylaws. Our Board of Directors, subject to stockholder approval of the Proposed Charter Amendment, has approved an amendment and restatement of our Existing Bylaws (the “Fourth Amended and Restated Bylaws”), in order to modify our Existing Bylaws so as to conform with the Proposed Charter Amendment. Approval of the Fourth Amended and Restated Bylaws does not require stockholder action. The Fourth Amended and Restated Bylaws will only take effect if the Proposed Charter Amendment is approved by our stockholders.

Vote Required

Under the MGCL, a Maryland corporation generally cannot amend its charter unless the amendment is approved by the affirmative vote of stockholders entitled to cast at least two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter unless a lesser percentage (but not less than a majority of all of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter) is set forth in the corporation’s charter. Our Charter generally provides that, if such amendment is declared advisable by our Board of Directors and approved by at least 75% of the continuing directors (as defined in our Charter), such amendment may be approved by the affirmative vote of stockholders entitled to cast at least a majority of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter. The Proposed Charter Amendment was declared advisable by our Board of Directors, and received the continuing director approval referred to above. Accordingly, the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes entitled to be cast at the annual meeting will be necessary to approve the Proposed Charter Amendment. Abstentions and broker non-votes will have the same effect as votes against the proposal.

Recommendation

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR ADOPTION OF THIS PROPOSAL. PROPERLY AUTHORIZED PROXIES SOLICITED BY OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL BE VOTED FOR ADOPTION OF THIS PROPOSAL UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED.

Table of Contents

PROPOSAL 5: APPROVAL OF 2016 EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN

Proposal

Our Board of Directors believes that equity awards can play an important role in the success of the Company by encouraging and enabling the employees, officers, non-employee directors and consultants of the Company, DiamondRock Hospitality Limited Partnership, L.P., our operating partnership, and their subsidiaries, upon whose judgment, initiative and efforts the Company largely depends for the successful conduct of its business, to acquire a proprietary interest in the Company. Our Board of Directors anticipates that providing such persons with a direct stake in the Company will assure a closer identification of the interests of such individuals with those of the Company and our stockholders, thereby stimulating their efforts on the Company's behalf and strengthening their desire to remain with the Company.

On February 17, 2016, our Board of Directors adopted the 2016 Equity Incentive Plan (the "2016 Plan"), subject to the approval of our stockholders. The 2016 Plan will replace our Amended and Restated 2004 Stock Option and Incentive Plan, as last amended April 28, 2010 (the "Prior Plan") which is scheduled to expire on April 26, 2017, before our 2017 annual meeting of stockholders. The 2016 Plan provides flexibility to our Compensation Committee to use various equity-based incentive awards as compensation tools to motivate our workforce. Following approval of the 2016 Plan by our stockholders, we will no longer make any grants under the Prior Plan. A copy of the 2016 Plan is attached as Appendix B to this proxy statement and is incorporated herein by reference.

As of March 1, 2016, there were 20,770 stock appreciation rights, 398,405 deferred stock units, 684,608 full-value awards subject to time-based vesting and 754,055 full-value awards subject to performance vesting outstanding under the Prior Plan. Other than the foregoing, no other awards under our equity compensation plans were outstanding as of March 1, 2016.

Summary of Material Features

The material features of the 2016 Plan are:

• The maximum number of shares of common stock to be issued under the 2016 Plan is 7,000,000, less one share for every one share granted under the Prior Plan after December 31, 2015;

• Shares tendered or held back for taxes will be added back to the reserved pool under the 2016 Plan. Upon the exercise of a stock appreciation right, the full number of shares underlying the award that are not issued in connection with the stock settlement of the award will be added back to the reserved pool. However, shares reacquired by the Company on the open market or otherwise using cash proceeds of option exercises will not be added to the reserved pool;

• The award of stock options (both incentive and non-qualified options), stock appreciation rights, restricted stock, restricted stock units, deferred stock units, unrestricted stock, dividend equivalent rights, cash-based awards and other equity-based awards is permitted;

• Without stockholder approval, the exercise price of stock options and stock appreciation rights will not be reduced and stock options and stock appreciation rights will not be otherwise repriced through cancellation in exchange for cash, other awards or stock options or stock appreciation rights with a lower exercise price;

• Any material amendment to the 2016 Plan is subject to approval by our stockholders; and

• The 2016 Plan will expire on May 3, 2026.

Based solely on the closing price of our common stock as reported by the NYSE on March 1, 2016, the maximum aggregate market value of the common stock that could potentially be issued under the 2016 Plan is \$64,890,000. The shares we issue under the 2016 Plan will be authorized but unissued shares or shares that we reacquire. The shares of common stock underlying any awards that are forfeited, canceled, reacquired by the Company prior to vesting, satisfied without any issuance of stock, expire or are otherwise terminated (other than by exercise) after the approval of the 2016 Plan by our stockholders will be added back to the shares of common stock available for issuance under the 2016 Plan.

Table of Contents

Qualified Performance-Based Compensation under Code Section 162(m)

To ensure that certain awards granted under the 2016 Plan to a “Covered Employee” (as defined in the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”)) qualify as “performance-based compensation” under Section 162(m) of the Code, the 2016 Plan provides that our Compensation Committee may require that the vesting of such awards be conditioned on the satisfaction of performance criteria that may include any or all of the following: (1) revenue; (2) revenue per employee; (3) earnings as determined by generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”); (4) taxable earnings; (5) GAAP or taxable earnings per employee; (6) GAAP or taxable earnings per share (basic or diluted); (7) operating income; (8) earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (“EBITDA”) or EBITDA per share; (9) funds from operations (“FFO”) or FFO per share; (10) funds available for distribution “FAD” or FAD per share; (11) operating margins (however denominated); (12) level of expenses, including capital expenses or corporate overhead expenses; (13) cash flow or cash flow per share; (14) total shareholder return; (15) dividends paid or payable; (16) market share; (17) profitability as measured by return ratios, including return on revenue, return on assets, return on equity (including adjusted return on equity) and return on investment; (18) cash flow; (19) economic value added (economic profit); and (20) any one or more of these measures applied to either the Company or any subset of the Company’s hotels. In addition, performance goals may be established on a corporate-wide basis; with respect to one or more business units, divisions, subsidiaries or business segments and in either absolute terms or relative to the performance of one or more comparable companies or an index covering multiple companies. The measurement of performance against goals may exclude, if our Compensation Committee provides in individual grant agreements, the impact of charges for restructurings, discontinued operations, any item of an unusual nature or of a type that indicates infrequency of occurrence, and other unusual or non-recurring items, and the cumulative effects of tax or accounting changes, each as defined by GAAP and as identified in the financial statements, management’s discussion and analysis or other SEC filing.

Our Compensation Committee will select the particular performance criteria within 90 days following the commencement of a performance cycle. Subject to adjustments for stock splits and similar events, the maximum award granted to any one individual that is intended to qualify as “performance-based compensation” under Section 162(m) of the Code will not exceed 1,000,000 shares of common stock for any performance cycle and options or stock appreciation rights with respect to no more than 1,000,000 shares of common stock may be granted to any one individual during any calendar year period. If a performance-based award is payable in cash, it cannot exceed \$10 million for any performance cycle.

Rationale for 2016 Plan

The 2016 Plan is critical to our ongoing effort to build stockholder value. As our Prior Plan will expire prior to our 2017 annual meeting, we need stockholder approval of the 2016 Plan in order to continue our equity compensation program. Our equity incentive awards are also an important component of our executive and non-executive employees' compensation. Our Compensation Committee and Board of Directors believe we must continue to offer a competitive equity compensation program in order to attract, retain and motivate the talented and qualified employees necessary for our continued growth and success.

We manage our long-term stockholder dilution by limiting the number of equity incentive awards granted annually. Our Compensation Committee carefully monitors our annual share usage, total dilution, and equity expense in order to maximize stockholder value by granting only the appropriate number of equity incentive awards that it believes are necessary to attract, reward, and retain employees. Our compensation philosophy reflects broad-based eligibility for equity incentive awards, and we grant awards to approximately half of our employees. By doing so, we link employee interests with stockholder interests throughout the organization and motivate our employees to act as owners of the business.

Annual Share Usage

The following table sets forth information regarding historical grants under the Prior Plan for the three-year period ended December 31, 2015, and the corresponding share usage rate, which is defined as the number of shares subject to equity-based awards granted in a year divided by the weighted average common shares outstanding for that year, for each of the last three fiscal years:

Table of Contents

	2015	2014	2013	
Time-Based Full-Value Awards Granted	216,159	249,311	323,526	
Performance-Based Full-Value Awards Granted	218,467	200,685	217,949	
Total Awards Granted	434,626	449,996	541,475	
Weighted average common shares outstanding during the fiscal year	200,738,301	195,943,813	195,478,353	
Annual Share Usage Rate	0.22	% 0.23	% 0.28	%
Three-Year Average Share Usage Rate	0.24	%		

Our Compensation Committee determined the size of the 2016 Plan based on projected equity awards to anticipated new hires, projected annual equity awards to existing employees, and an assessment of the magnitude of shares available for awards that our institutional investors and the firms that advise them would likely find acceptable. We anticipate that if the 2016 Plan is approved by our stockholders, it will be sufficient to provide equity incentives to attract, retain, and motivate employees through at least the next five to seven years.

Summary of the 2016 Plan

The following description of certain features of the 2016 Plan is intended to be a summary only. The summary is qualified in its entirety by the full text of the 2016 Plan that is attached hereto as Appendix B.

Plan Administration. The 2016 Plan may be administered by our Board of Directors, our Compensation Committee or a similar committee comprised of at least two non-employee directors. Currently, the 2016 Plan is administered by our Compensation Committee. Our Compensation Committee has full power to select, from among the individuals eligible for awards, the individuals to whom awards will be granted, to make any combination of awards to participants, and to determine the specific terms and conditions of each award, subject to the provisions of the 2016 Plan. Our Compensation Committee may delegate to our Chief Executive Officer the authority to grant awards to employees who are not subject to the reporting and other provisions of Section 16 of the Exchange Act and not subject to Section 162(m) of the Code, subject to certain limitations and guidelines.

Eligibility. Persons eligible to participate in the 2016 Plan will be those full or part-time officers, employees, non-employee directors and consultants of the Company, our operating partnership and their subsidiaries as selected from time to time by our Compensation Committee in its discretion. All of our non-employee directors will participate in the 2016 Plan. In addition, it is expected that approximately 60 percent of our 25 employees will be selected initially by our Compensation Committee to participate in the 2016 Plan, which includes five officers and ten employees who are not officers.

Plan Limits. If any award of restricted stock or restricted stock units granted to an individual is intended to qualify as “performance-based compensation” under Section 162(m) of the Code, then the maximum award shall not exceed 1,000,000 shares of common stock (subject to adjustment for stock splits and similar events) to any one such individual in any performance cycle. If any cash-based award is intended to qualify as “performance-based compensation” under Section 162(m) of the Code, then the maximum award to be paid in cash in any performance cycle may not exceed \$10 million. The maximum award of stock options or stock appreciation rights granted to any one individual will not exceed 1,000,000 shares of common stock (subject to adjustment for stock splits and similar events) for any calendar year period. In addition, no more than 2,000,000 shares will be issued in the form of incentive stock options.

Maximum Awards to Non-Employee Directors. The value of all Awards awarded under the 2016 Plan and all other cash compensation paid by the Company to any non-employee director other than the chairman and vice chairman of our Board of Directors in any calendar year may not exceed \$500,000.

Stock Options. The 2016 Plan permits the granting of (1) options to purchase common stock intended to qualify as incentive stock options under Section 422 of the Code and (2) options that do not so qualify. Options granted under the 2016 Plan will be non-qualified options if they fail to qualify as incentive options or exceed the annual limit on incentive stock options. Incentive stock options may only be granted to employees of the Company, our operating partnership and their subsidiaries. Non-qualified options may be granted to any persons eligible to receive incentive

options and to non-employee directors and consultants. The option exercise price of each option will be determined by our Compensation Committee but

13

Table of Contents

may not be less than 100 percent of the fair market value of the common stock on the date of grant. Fair market value for this purpose will be the last reported sale price of the shares of common stock on the NYSE on the date of grant. The exercise price of an option may not be reduced after the date of the option grant, other than to appropriately reflect changes in our capital structure.

The term of each option will be fixed by our Compensation Committee and may not exceed ten years from the date of grant. Our Compensation Committee will determine at what time or times each option may be exercised. Options may be made exercisable in installments and the exercisability of options may be accelerated by our Compensation Committee. In general, unless otherwise permitted by our Compensation Committee, no option granted under the 2016 Plan is transferable by the optionee other than by will or by the laws of descent and distribution, and options may be exercised during the optionee's lifetime only by the optionee, or by the optionee's legal representative or guardian in the case of the optionee's incapacity.

Upon exercise of options, the option exercise price must be paid in full either in cash, by certified or bank check or other instrument acceptable to our Compensation Committee or by delivery (or attestation to the ownership) of shares of common stock that are beneficially owned by the optionee for at least six months or were purchased in the open market. Subject to applicable law, the exercise price may also be delivered to the Company by a broker pursuant to irrevocable instructions to the broker from the optionee. In addition, our Compensation Committee may permit non-qualified options to be exercised using a net exercise feature which reduces the number of shares issued to the optionee by the number of shares with a fair market value equal to the exercise price.

To qualify as incentive options, options must meet additional federal tax requirements, including a \$100,000 limit on the value of shares subject to incentive options that first become exercisable by a participant in any one calendar year. Stock Appreciation Rights. Our Compensation Committee may award stock appreciation rights subject to such conditions and restrictions as our Compensation Committee may determine at the time of grant. Stock appreciation rights entitle the recipient to shares of common stock equal to the value of the appreciation in the stock price over the exercise price. The exercise price is the fair market value of the common stock on the date of grant. The maximum term of a stock appreciation right is ten years.

Restricted Stock. Our Compensation Committee may award shares of common stock to participants subject to such conditions and restrictions as our Compensation Committee may determine. These conditions and restrictions may include the achievement of certain performance goals (as summarized above) and/or continued employment with us through a specified restricted period.

Restricted Stock Units. Our Compensation Committee may award restricted stock units to any participants. Restricted stock units are ultimately payable in the form of shares of common stock and may be subject to such conditions and restrictions as our Compensation Committee may determine at the time of grant. These conditions and restrictions may include the achievement of certain performance goals (as summarized above) and/or continued employment with the Company through a specified vesting period. In our Compensation Committee's sole discretion, it may permit a participant to make an advance election to receive a portion of his or her future cash or stock compensation otherwise due in the form of a deferred stock unit award, subject to the participant's compliance with the procedures established by our Compensation Committee and requirements of Section 409A of the Code. During the deferral period, the deferred stock awards may be credited with dividend equivalent rights which may be paid out currently or deferred.

Unrestricted Stock Awards. Our Compensation Committee may also grant shares of common stock which are free from any restrictions under the 2016 Plan. Unrestricted stock may be granted to any participant in recognition of past services or other valid consideration and may be issued in lieu of cash compensation due to such participant.

Cash-Based Awards. Our Compensation Committee may grant cash bonuses under the 2016 Plan to participants. The cash bonuses may be subject to the achievement of certain performance goals (as summarized above).

Dividend Equivalent Rights. Our Compensation Committee may grant dividend equivalent rights to participants which entitle the recipient to receive credits for dividends that would be paid if the recipient had held specified shares of common stock. Dividend equivalent rights granted as a component of another award subject to performance vesting may be paid only if the related award becomes vested. Dividend equivalent rights may be settled in cash, shares of common stock or a combination thereof, in a single installment or installments, as specified in the award.

Table of Contents

Other Equity-Based Awards. Our Compensation Committee may grant other forms of awards under the 2016 Plan that are valued in whole or in part by reference to, or otherwise calculated by reference to or based on, shares of common stock, including (1) units of partnership interest, including one or more classes of profits interests in our operating partnership (“units”), (2) convertible preferred shares, convertible debentures and other convertible, exchangeable or redeemable securities or equity interests (including units), (3) membership interests in a subsidiary or our operating partnership and (4) awards valued by reference to book value, fair value or performance goals relative to the Company or any subsidiary or group of subsidiaries. Our Compensation Committee will determine the recipients of, and the times at which, other equity-based awards will be made; the number of shares of common stock or units to be awarded; the price, if any, to be paid to the recipient; and such conditions and restrictions as our Compensation Committee may determine. These conditions and restrictions may include the achievement of certain performance goals (as summarized above), computation of financial metrics and/or continued employment with the Company through a specified period. Other equity-based awards may be issued either alone or in addition to other awards granted under the 2016 Plan.

Change in Control Provisions. The 2016 Plan provides that upon the effectiveness of a “change in control,” as defined in the 2016 Plan, except as otherwise provided by our Compensation Committee in the award agreement, all outstanding equity awards may be assumed or continued by the successor entity or substituted on an equitable basis with new awards of the successor entity, in each case adjusted accordingly to take into account the impact of the transaction. If awards are continued, assumed or substituted in connection with a change in control, in the event of an involuntary termination of services of a recipient for any reason other than “cause,” as defined in the 2016 Plan, within 24 months following the change in control, any of the recipient’s awards that were continued, assumed or substituted which are subject to service vesting will accelerate in full, and any awards that are subject to performance vesting will accelerate to the extent provided in the respective award certificate.

To the extent, however, that the parties to such change in control do not agree that outstanding equity awards shall be assumed, continued or substituted, then any stock options and stock appreciation rights with time-based vesting shall become fully exercisable and the restrictions and conditions on all such other equity awards with time-based conditions will automatically be deemed waived. Equity awards with conditions and restrictions relating to the attainment of performance goals will be subject to the terms of the respective award certificate.

In addition, in the case of a change in control in which our stockholders will receive cash consideration, we may make or provide for a cash payment to participants holding options and stock appreciation rights equal to the difference between the value, as determined by our Compensation Committee, of the consideration payable per share of common stock (the “sale price”) and the exercise price of the options or stock appreciation rights in exchange for the cancellation thereto. We may also make or provide for a payment, in cash or kind, to the recipients of other awards in amount equal to the sale price multiplied by the number of vested shares of common stock subject to such awards.

Our Compensation Committee may also grant substitute awards for stock and stock-based awards held by employees, directors and other key persons of another corporation in connection with the merger or consolidation of the employing corporation with the Company or a subsidiary or the acquisition by the Company or a subsidiary of property or stock of the employing corporation. Any substitute awards granted under the 2016 Plan will not count against the reserved pool and any forfeiture or cancellation of substitute awards will not be added back to the reserved pool.

Adjustments for Stock Dividends, Stock Splits, Etc. The 2016 Plan requires our Compensation Committee to make appropriate adjustments to the number of shares of common stock that are subject to the 2016 Plan, to certain limits in the 2016 Plan, and to any outstanding awards to reflect stock dividends, stock splits, extraordinary cash dividends and similar events.

Tax Withholding. Participants in the 2016 Plan are responsible for the payment of any federal, state or local taxes that the Company is required by law to withhold upon the exercise of options or stock appreciation rights or vesting of other awards. Subject to approval by our Compensation Committee, participants may elect to have the minimum tax withholding obligations satisfied by authorizing the Company to withhold shares of common stock to be issued pursuant to the exercise or vesting of such award.

Amendments and Termination. Our Board of Directors may at any time amend or discontinue the 2016 Plan and our Compensation Committee may at any time amend or cancel any outstanding award for the purpose of satisfying changes in the law or for any other lawful purpose. However, no such action may adversely affect any rights under any outstanding award without the holder's consent. To the extent required under the rules of the rules of any securities exchange or market

Table of Contents

system on which the common stock is listed, any amendments that materially change the terms of the 2016 Plan will be subject to approval by our stockholders. Amendments shall also be subject to approval by our stockholders if and to the extent determined by our Compensation Committee to be required by the Code to preserve the qualified status of incentive options or to ensure that compensation earned under the 2016 Plan qualifies as performance-based compensation under Section 162(m) of the Code.

Effective Date of 2016 Plan. Our Board of Directors adopted the 2016 Plan on February 17, 2016, and the 2016 Plan becomes effective on the date it is approved by our stockholders. If our stockholders approve the 2016 Plan, then awards of incentive options may be granted under the 2016 Plan until February 17, 2026. No other awards may be granted under the 2016 Plan after the date that is 10 years from the date of stockholder approval.

New Plan Benefits

Because the grant of awards under the 2016 Plan is within the discretion of our Compensation Committee, we cannot determine the dollar value or number of shares of common stock that will in the future be received by or allocated to any participant in the 2016 Plan. Accordingly, in lieu of providing information regarding benefits that will be received under the 2016 Plan, the following table provides information concerning the benefits that were received by the following persons and groups during 2015: each named executive officer; all current executive officers, as a group; all current directors who are not executive officers, as a group; and all employees who are not executive officers, as a group.

Name and Position	Fully Vested Stock Awards		Time-Based Restricted Stock		Performance-Based Restricted Stock Units	
	Dollar Value (\$)	Number (#)	Dollar Value (\$)	Number (#)	Dollar Value (\$)	Number (#)
Mark W. Brugger, President and Chief Executive Officer	—	—	1,375,000	94,959	1,375,000	113,355
Sean M. Mahoney, Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer	—	—	450,000	31,077	450,000	37,098
Robert D. Tanenbaum, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer	—	—	337,500	23,308	337,500	27,824
Troy G. Furbay, Executive Vice President and Chief Investment Officer	—	—	212,500	14,675	212,500	17,519
William J. Tennis, Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary	—	—	275,000	18,992	275,000	22,671
All current executive officers, as a group	—	—	2,650,000	183,011	2,650,000	218,467
All current directors who are not executive officers, as a group	577,500	42,772	—	—	—	—
All current employees who are not executive officers, as a group	—	—	480,000	33,148	—	—

Tax Aspects Under the Code

The following is a summary of the principal federal income tax consequences of certain transactions under the 2016 Plan. It does not describe all federal tax consequences under the 2016 Plan, nor does it describe state or local tax consequences.

Incentive Options. No taxable income is generally realized by the optionee upon the grant or exercise of an incentive option. If shares of common stock issued to an optionee pursuant to the exercise of an incentive option are sold or transferred after two years from the date of grant and after one year from the date of exercise, then (i) upon sale of

such shares, any amount realized in excess of the option price (the amount paid for the shares) will be taxed to the optionee as a long-term capital gain, and any loss sustained will be a long-term capital loss, and (ii) the Company will not be entitled to any deduction for federal income tax purposes. The exercise of an incentive option will give rise to an item of tax preference that may result in alternative minimum tax liability for the optionee.

Table of Contents

If shares of common stock acquired upon the exercise of an incentive option are disposed of prior to the expiration of the two-year and one-year holding periods described above (a “disqualifying disposition”), generally (i) the optionee will realize ordinary income in the year of disposition in an amount equal to the excess (if any) of the fair market value of the shares of common stock at exercise (or, if less, the amount realized on a sale of such shares of common stock) over the option price thereof, and (ii) we will be entitled to deduct such amount. Special rules apply where all or a portion of the exercise price of the incentive option is paid by tendering shares of common stock.

If an incentive option is exercised at a time when it no longer qualifies for the tax treatment described above, the option is treated as a non-qualified option. Generally, an incentive option will not be eligible for the tax treatment described above if it is exercised more than three months following termination of employment (or one year in the case of termination of employment by reason of disability). In the case of termination of employment by reason of death, the three-month rule does not apply.

Non-Qualified Options. No income is realized by the optionee at the time the option is granted. Generally (i) at exercise, ordinary income is realized by the optionee in an amount equal to the difference between the option price and the fair market value of the shares of common stock on the date of exercise, and we receive a tax deduction for the same amount, and (ii) at disposition, appreciation or depreciation after the date of exercise is treated as either short-term or long-term capital gain or loss depending on how long the shares of common stock have been held. Special rules apply where all or a portion of the exercise price of the non-qualified option is paid by tendering shares of common stock. Upon exercise, the optionee will also be subject to Social Security taxes on the excess of the fair market value over the exercise price of the option.

Other Awards. The Company generally will be entitled to a tax deduction in connection with an award under the 2016 Plan in an amount equal to the ordinary income realized by the participant at the time the participant recognizes such income. Participants typically are subject to income tax and recognize such tax at the time that an award is exercised, vests or becomes non-forfeitable, unless the award provides for a further deferral.

Parachute Payments. The vesting of any portion of an option or other award that is accelerated due to the occurrence of a change in control (such as a change in control) may cause a portion of the payments with respect to such accelerated awards to be treated as “parachute payments” as defined in the Code. Any such parachute payments may be non-deductible to the Company, in whole or in part, and may subject the recipient to a non-deductible 20 percent federal excise tax on all or a portion of such payment (in addition to other taxes ordinarily payable).

Limitation on Deductions. Under Section 162(m) of the Code, the Company’s deduction for certain awards under the 2016 Plan may be limited to the extent that the Chief Executive Officer or other executive officer whose compensation is required to be reported in the summary compensation table (other than the Principal Financial Officer) receives compensation in excess of \$1 million a year (other than performance-based compensation that otherwise meets the requirements of Section 162(m) of the Code). The 2016 Plan is structured to allow certain awards to qualify as performance-based compensation.

Vote Required

The affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast on this proposal will be required for the approval of the 2016 Plan. In addition, the rules of the NYSE require that votes for the proposal must be at least a majority of all the votes cast on the proposal (including votes for and against and abstentions). The NYSE treats abstentions as votes cast, but does not treat broker non-votes as votes cast.

Recommendation

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE 2016 EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN. PROPERLY AUTHORIZED PROXIES SOLICITED BY OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL BE VOTED FOR APPROVAL OF THE 2016 EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED.

Table of Contents

Equity Compensation Plan Information

The following table provides information as of December 31, 2015 regarding shares of common stock that may be issued under the Company's equity compensation plans.

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 plans approved by security holders	811,629	\$12.59	4,075,265
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders	—	—	—
Total	811,629	\$12.59	4,075,265

Includes 20,770 shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of outstanding stock appreciation rights, 114,500 shares of common stock issuable pursuant to our deferred compensation plan and 676,359 shares of common stock issuable upon the achievement of certain performance conditions. Does not include 474,567 shares of restricted stock as they have been reflected in our total shares outstanding.

(1) Since performance stock units and deferred stock units do not have any exercise price, such units are not included in the weighted average exercise price calculation.

(2) As of March 1, 2016, there are 3,479,031 shares available for grants under the Prior Plan. If the 2016 Plan is approved by our stockholders, no additional shares will be issued under the Prior Plan.

Table of Contents

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES AND BOARD MATTERS

Our business is built on relationships — with our investors, with the global brand companies we utilize for our hotels and with the management companies who manage our hotels. We are committed to keeping our relationships strong by communicating openly about our business practices, being transparent about our performance and remaining accountable for our conduct. We take our commitments seriously.

At the core of these commitments is the role of our Board of Directors in overseeing the management of the Company's business and affairs. We believe that an active, informed, independent and involved board is essential for ensuring our integrity, transparency and long-term strength. We believe that our Board of Directors embodies each of those characteristics. We have assembled a Board of Directors that is comprised of individuals with a wide breadth of experience including: a member with several decades of real estate experience; a leading corporate lawyer; the former Chairman of a public lodging REIT and founder and chief executive officer of a private hotel investment company; the founder and the current Chief Executive Officer of a major on-line events planning company and a retired chief executive officer, as well as our former Chief Executive Officer and our current Chief Executive Officer.

We follow through on our commitment by implementing what we believe are sound corporate governance practices, including:

Recent Developments

In February 2016, our Board of Directors unanimously approved the Proposed Charter Amendment that would permit both directors and stockholders to have the right to amend the Company's bylaws. This Proposed Charter Amendment is being submitted in this proxy statement to stockholders for approval, as Proposal 4. Subject to stockholder approval of Proposal 4, our Board has approved the Fourth Amended and Restated Bylaws so as to conform our existing Bylaws to the Proposed Charter Amendment.

In November 2014, we amended our bylaws to provide that a majority of all votes cast at a meeting for the election of directors at which a quorum is presented is necessary for the election of a director in an uncontested election. If a nominee who is already serving as a director is not elected pursuant to this standard, the director must tender his or her resignation to the Board, and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will make a recommendation to the Board on whether to accept or reject the recommendation or take other action. In a contested election of directors, directors will be elected by a plurality of the shares represented in person or by proxy and entitled to vote on the election of directors.

In February 2014, we opted out of a provision of the Maryland Unsolicited Takeover Act by filing articles supplementary with the State Department of Assessments and Taxation in Maryland. The effect of this filing is to prevent the Company, without the approval of stockholders, from classifying our Board of Directors. We may only opt back into such provision with the affirmative vote of at least a majority of the votes cast by stockholders entitled to vote generally in the election of directors.

Board Structure

All of the members of our Board of Directors are elected annually;

All of the members of our Board of Directors, except for our President and Chief Executive Officer, are independent of the Company and its management;

All members of the three standing committees of our Board of Directors (Audit, Compensation and Nominating and Corporate Governance) are independent of the Company and its management; and

The independent members of our Board of Directors, as well as each of our Committees, meet regularly without the presence of management.

Change of Control

We do not have a stockholder rights plan (i.e., "poison pill"); and

We have opted out of the Maryland business combination and control share acquisition statutes and we may only opt back into such statutes with the affirmative vote of at least a majority of votes cast by stockholders entitled to vote

Table of Contents

generally for directors and the affirmative vote of a majority of continuing directors, meaning the initial directors and the directors whose nomination for election by the stockholders or whose election by the directors to fill vacancies is approved by a majority of continuing directors then serving as directors of the Company.

Stock Ownership Policies

We have adopted policies prohibiting the sale of our common stock by:

each non-executive member of our Board of Directors unless he or she owns a minimum amount of stock of the Company with a value of five times his or her annual fee for Board membership (excluding additional retainers for serving as non-executive Chairman, Lead Director or Committee Chair); and our Chief Executive Officer and his four direct reports unless he or she owns stock of the Company with a value of four or three times his or her base salary, respectively.

Clawback Policy

We have adopted a policy pursuant to which the Company would seek to recoup any incentive cash compensation paid to an executive based upon financial results that are later restated, and would have resulted in a lower incentive cash compensation award, where the executive engaged in fraud, intentional misconduct or illegal behavior in connection with the financial results that were restated.

Hedging, Short Sales, and Pledging Policies

We have adopted policies pursuant to which members of our Board of Directors, each named executive officer and certain other executives are prohibited from:

- selling any securities of the Company that are not owned at the time of the sale ("short sale");
- purchasing or selling puts, calls or other derivative securities of the Company at any time; and
- pledging Company securities as collateral for a loan unless our Compensation Committee has given prior approval.

The Board of Directors and Its Committees

Board of Directors

We are managed under the direction of our Board of Directors. Our directors are: Daniel J. Altobello, Mark W. Brugger, Timothy R. Chi, W. Robert Grafton, Maureen L. McAvey, William W. McCarten, Gilbert T. Ray, and Bruce D. Wardinski. Mr. McCarten is the Chairman of our Board of Directors and Mr. Grafton is currently our lead independent director. Each of our directors stands for election annually, except that this year Mr. Grafton announced he will not stand for re-election and will retire from our Board of Directors, effective as of our 2016 annual meeting. Our Board of Directors intends to appoint Mr. Wardinski to be our lead independent director following the 2016 annual meeting.

Director Independence

Our Board of Directors has adopted Guidelines on Significant Governance Issues ("Corporate Governance Guidelines"), which provide that a majority of our directors must be independent. In order to qualify as an "independent director" under our independence standards, a director must be "independent" within the meaning of the NYSE Corporate Governance Rules, which provide that our Board of Directors must determine whether a director has a material relationship with us (either directly or as a partner, stockholder or officer of an organization that has a relationship with us) and whether, within the past three years:

- the director was employed by the Company (except on an interim basis);

- an immediate family member of the director was an officer of the Company;

- the director or an immediate family member is a current partner of a firm that is our internal or external auditor; the director is a current employee of such a firm; the director has an immediate family member who is a current employee of such a firm and who participates in the firm's audit, assurance or tax compliance (but not tax planning) practice; or the director or an immediate family member was within the last three years (but is no longer) a partner or employee of such a firm and personally worked on our audit within that time;

Table of Contents

the director or an immediate family member of the director was employed by a company when a present officer of the Company sat on that company's compensation committee;

the director or an immediate family member received, during any 12-month period, more than \$100,000 in compensation from the Company, other than director or committee fees or deferred compensation; or

the director is an employee, or an immediate family member is an executive officer, of a company that makes payments to or receives payments from the Company which exceed the greater of \$1 million or 2% of that company's consolidated gross revenue over one fiscal year.

In addition, our Board of Directors considers, among other factors, whether the director, or an organization with which the director is affiliated, has entered into any commercial, consulting, or similar contracts with the Company; whether the director receives any compensation or other fees from the Company, other than director fees; whether the director spent more time than is customary advising the executive officers of the Company; and whether we and/or any of our affiliates make substantial contributions to tax-exempt organizations with which the director, or the director's spouse, is affiliated.

Our Board of Directors has determined that each of Messrs. Altobello, Chi, Grafton, Ray and Wardinski and Ms. McAvey is an "independent" director under our independence standards and under the NYSE Corporate Governance Rules. These six directors comprise a majority of our eight-member Board of Directors.

In addition, Mr. McCarten satisfies each of the objective independence criteria set forth above and under the NYSE Corporate Governance Rules, as determined by our Board of Directors. Mr. McCarten ceased to be a named executive officer of the Company effective January 1, 2010. Further, our Board of Directors considered certain other factors described above and determined that, among other things, Mr. McCarten does not spend more time than is customary advising the executive officers of the Company and that he has otherwise satisfied each of the additional criteria for establishing director independence. Therefore, the only member of our Board of Directors who is not independent under the NYSE Corporate Governance Rules and our independence standards is Mr. Brugger, President and Chief Executive Officer, who is an employee of the Company.

Meetings

Our Board of Directors met seven times during 2015. Each of our directors for 2015 attended at least 75% of the meetings of our Board of Directors. We expect each of our directors to attend our annual meeting of stockholders in person unless doing so would be impracticable due to unavoidable conflicts. In 2015, all of our directors, except Ms. McAvey, attended our annual meeting of stockholders.

Directors who qualify as being "non-management" within the meaning of the NYSE Corporate Governance Rules meet on a regular basis in executive sessions without management participation. The executive sessions occur after each regularly scheduled meeting of our entire Board of Directors and at such other times that our non-management directors deem appropriate. Each director has the right to call an executive session. The executive sessions are chaired by Mr. Grafton, the lead director of our Board of Directors.

Committees

Our Board of Directors has established an Audit Committee, Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and Compensation Committee and has adopted a written charter for each committee. A copy of each of our Audit Committee charter, Compensation Committee charter and Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee charter is available on our website at <http://www.drhc.com> under the heading "Corporate Governance" and subheading "Board Committees and Charters." These charters are also available in print to any stockholder upon written request addressed to Investor Relations, c/o DiamondRock Hospitality Company, 3 Bethesda Metro Center, Suite 1500, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Our Board of Directors may from time to time establish special or standing committees to facilitate the management of DiamondRock or to discharge specific duties delegated to the committee by our full Board of Directors.

Audit Committee

Our Audit Committee, pursuant to its written charter, assists our Board of Directors in its oversight of (i) our accounting and financial reporting processes; (ii) the integrity and audits of our financial statements; (iii) our compliance with legal and regulatory requirements; (iv) the qualifications, independence and performance of our

independent auditors; and (v) the performance of our internal audit function.

21

Table of Contents

During 2015, our Audit Committee was comprised of six of our independent directors: W. Robert Grafton (Chairman), Daniel J. Altobello, Timothy R. Chi, Maureen L. McAvey, Gilbert T. Ray and Bruce D. Wardinski. Each member of our Audit Committee is “independent” as that term is defined by the SEC and the NYSE. Our Board of Directors expects to appoint Mr. Wardinski as the Chairman of our Audit Committee following the 2016 annual meeting. Our Board of Directors determined that each of Messrs. Altobello, Grafton and Wardinski qualifies as an “audit committee financial expert” as that term is defined under the rules of the SEC. In accordance with the SEC’s safe harbor relating to audit committee financial experts, a person designated or identified as an audit committee financial expert will not be deemed an “expert” for purposes of federal securities laws. In addition, such designation or identification does not impose on such person any duties, obligations or liabilities that are greater than those imposed on such person as a member of the Audit Committee or Board of Directors in the absence of such designation or identification and does not affect the duties, obligations or liabilities of any other member of the Audit Committee or Board of Directors.

Our Audit Committee met four times during 2015 and each of the members attended at least 75% of the meetings of the Audit Committee.

The Report of our Audit Committee is included in this proxy statement.

Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee

Our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, pursuant to its written charter, is responsible for, among other things: (i) identifying and recommending qualified individuals to become members of our Board of Directors and the appointment of members to its various committees; (ii) overseeing the annual performance evaluation of our Board of Directors; and (iii) developing and recommending to our Board of Directors a set of corporate governance guidelines and policies and a code of business conduct and ethics, and periodically reviewing and recommending any changes to such guidelines and code.

During 2015, our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee was comprised of six of our independent directors: Gilbert T. Ray (Chairman), Daniel J. Altobello, Timothy R. Chi, W. Robert Grafton, Maureen L. McAvey and Bruce D. Wardinski. Our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee met five times during 2015 and each of the members attended at least 75% of the meetings of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee.

Compensation Committee

Our Compensation Committee, pursuant to its written charter, among other things, (i) reviews and approves corporate goals and objectives relevant to chief executive officer compensation, evaluates the chief executive officer’s performance in light of those goals and objectives, and determines and approves the chief executive officer’s compensation levels based on its evaluation, (ii) reviews and approves or makes recommendations to our Board of Directors with respect to the compensation for our other executive officers and non-employee directors and (iii) is responsible for recommending a successor chief executive officer to our Board of Directors if that position becomes or is expected to become vacant. Our Compensation Committee has the authority to retain and terminate any compensation consultant to be used to assist in the evaluation of the chief executive officer or other executive officer compensation.

During 2015, our Compensation Committee was comprised of six of our independent directors: Daniel J. Altobello (Chairman), W. Robert Grafton, Maureen L. McAvey, Timothy R. Chi, Gilbert T. Ray and Bruce D. Wardinski. Our Compensation Committee met five times during 2015 and each of the members attended at least 75% of the meetings of our Compensation Committee.

Pursuant to its charter, our Compensation Committee is authorized to retain any consultant, as well as approve the consultant’s fees, scope of work and other terms of retention. In 2015, as in previous years, our Compensation Committee retained Frederic W. Cook (“F.W. Cook”) as its consultant. F.W. Cook advises and consults with our Compensation Committee on compensation issues, compensation design, and keeps our Compensation Committee apprised of regulatory, legislative and accounting developments and competitive practices related to executive compensation. F.W. Cook assisted our Compensation Committee in the design, structure and implementation of the executive compensation program for 2015. F.W. Cook reports directly to our Compensation Committee, and a representative of F.W. Cook, when requested, attends meetings of our Compensation Committee, is available to

participate in executive sessions and communicates directly with our Compensation Committee Chairman or its members outside of meetings. F.W. Cook does no other work for the Company.

In compliance with the disclosure requirements of the SEC regarding the independence of compensation consultants, F.W. Cook addressed each of the six independence factors established by the SEC with our Compensation Committee. Their

Table of Contents

responses affirmed the independence of F.W. Cook on executive compensation matters. Based on this assessment, our Compensation Committee determined that the engagement of F.W. Cook does not raise any conflicts of interest or similar concerns.

The Report of our Compensation Committee is included in this proxy statement.

Consideration of Director Nominees

Stockholder Recommendations

Stockholders of record of DiamondRock may recommend candidates for inclusion by our Board of Directors in the slate of nominees that our Board of Directors recommends to stockholders. Our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee's current policy is to review and consider any director candidates who have been recommended by stockholders in compliance with the procedures established from time to time by our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and set forth in its charter. All stockholder recommendations for director candidates must be submitted to our Corporate Secretary at DiamondRock Hospitality Company, 3 Bethesda Metro Center, Suite 1500, Bethesda, MD 20814, who will forward all recommendations to our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. We did not receive any stockholder recommendations for director candidates for election at our 2016 annual meeting. All stockholder recommendations for director candidates for election at our 2017 annual meeting must be submitted to our Corporate Secretary not less than 120 calendar days prior to the anniversary of the date on which the Company's proxy statement was released to our stockholders in connection with the previous year's annual meeting and must include the following information:

• the name and address of record of the stockholder;

• a representation that the stockholder is a record holder of our securities or, if the stockholder is not a record holder, evidence of ownership in accordance with Rule 14a-8(b)(2) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act");

• the name, age, business and residential address, educational background, current principal occupation or employment, and principal occupation or employment for the preceding five full fiscal years of the proposed director candidate;

• a description of the qualifications and background of the proposed director candidate which addresses the minimum qualifications and other criteria for Board of Directors membership as approved by our Board of Directors from time to time and set forth in the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee charter;

• a description of all arrangements or understandings between the stockholder and the proposed director candidate;

• the consent of the proposed director candidate (1) to be named in the proxy statement relating to our annual meeting of stockholders and (2) to serve as a director if elected at such annual meeting; and

• any other information regarding the proposed director candidate that is required to be included in a proxy statement filed pursuant to the rules of the SEC.

Stockholders also have the right to directly nominate director candidates, without any action or recommendation on the part of our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee or our Board of Directors by following the procedures set forth in the Bylaws of the Company and described in the section titled "Stockholder Nominations of Directors."

Board of Directors Membership Criteria

Our Board of Directors has established criteria for Board of Directors membership. These criteria include the following specific, minimum qualifications that our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee believes must be met by a nominee for a position on our Board of Directors, including that the nominee shall:

• have the highest personal and professional integrity;

• have demonstrated exceptional ability and judgment; and

• be most effective, in conjunction with the other nominees to our Board of Directors, in collectively serving the long-term interests of our stockholders.

In addition to the minimum qualifications for each nominee set forth above, our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will recommend director candidates to the full Board of Directors for nomination, or present director candidates to the full Board of Directors for consideration, to help ensure that:

Table of Contents

a majority of our Board of Directors will be “independent” as defined by the NYSE Corporate Governance Rules; each of our Audit, Compensation and Nominating and Corporate Governance Committees will be comprised entirely of independent directors; and at least one member of our Audit Committee will have such experience, education and other qualifications necessary to qualify as an “audit committee financial expert” as defined by the rules of the SEC.

Identifying and Evaluating Nominees

Our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee may solicit recommendations for director nominees from any or all of the following sources: non-management directors, our chairman and chief executive officer, other executive officers, third-party search firms or any other source it deems appropriate.

Our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will review and evaluate the qualifications of any proposed director candidate whom it is considering or who has been recommended to it by a stockholder in compliance with our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee’s procedures for that purpose, including conducting inquiries into the background of proposed director candidates. In identifying and evaluating proposed director candidates, our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee may consider, in addition to the minimum qualifications for Board of Directors membership approved by our Board of Directors, all facts and circumstances that it deems appropriate or advisable including, among other things, the skills of the proposed director candidate, his or her depth and breadth of business experience, his or her independence and the needs of our Board of Directors. Other than circumstances in which we are legally required by contract or otherwise to provide third parties with the right to nominate directors, our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will evaluate all proposed director candidates that it considers or who have been properly recommended to it by a stockholder based on the same criteria and in substantially the same manner, with no regard to the source of the initial recommendation of the proposed director candidate.

Criteria and Diversity

In considering whether to recommend any candidate for inclusion in our Board of Directors’ slate of recommended director nominees, including candidates recommended by stockholders, our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will apply the minimum criteria set forth above as well as the Board membership criteria set forth in our Corporate Governance Guidelines. We do not have a formal diversity policy. However, our Corporate Governance Guidelines provide that our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, when recommending to our Board of Directors the types of skills and characteristics required of Board members, should consider such factors as relevant experience, intelligence, independence, commitment, compatibility with the Board culture, prominence, diversity, understanding of our business and such other factors as the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee deems relevant. Our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee does not assign specific weights to particular criteria and no particular criterion is necessarily applicable to all prospective nominees. Our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee may therefore consider a broad range of factors related to the qualifications and background of nominees, which is not limited only to diversity. Pursuant to our Corporate Governance Guidelines, our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will confer with our full Board of Directors as to the criteria it intends to apply before a search for a new director is commenced.

Board Leadership Structure

Our Corporate Governance Guidelines permit our Board of Directors to determine whether it is in the best interests of the Company to combine or separate the roles of Chief Executive Officer and Chairman at a given point in time. Our Board of Directors believes that it is in the best interests of the Company that the roles of Chief Executive Officer and Chairman be separated in order for the individuals appointed to each position to focus on their primary role. Our Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Brugger, is responsible for setting the strategic direction for the Company and the day-to-day leadership and performance of the Company, while Mr. McCarten, our Chairman, provides guidance to our Chief Executive Officer, presides over meetings of our full Board of Directors and, together with the lead director, sets the agenda for meetings of the Board of Directors. In the future, our Board of Directors may determine that it would be in the best interests of the Company to combine the roles of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer.

Our Corporate Governance Guidelines provide that our Board of Directors will adopt a “lead director” structure where one independent director is selected to serve as an interface between the Chief Executive Officer and our Board of

Directors. Mr. Grafton is currently our lead director, and our Board of Directors intends to appoint Mr. Wardinski to be our lead director following the 2016 annual meeting. The lead director is the presiding director when our Board of Directors meets in executive session. In addition, our lead director's duties include assisting our Board of Directors in assuring compliance with,

24

Table of Contents

and implementation of, our Corporate Governance Guidelines, coordinating the agenda for, and moderating sessions of, our Board's independent directors and acting as principal liaison between our independent directors and our Chief Executive Officer on certain issues.

The Board's Role in Risk Oversight

Our Board of Directors plays an important role in the risk oversight of the Company. Our Board of Directors is involved in risk oversight through its direct decision-making authority with respect to significant matters and the oversight of management by the Board of Directors and its committees. Our Board of Directors (or the appropriate committee in the case of risks that are under the purview of a particular committee) administers its risk oversight function by receiving regular reports from members of senior management on areas of material risk to the Company, including operational, financial, legal, regulatory, strategic and reputational risks. In addition, our Board of Directors administers its risk oversight function through the required approval by our Board of Directors (or a committee thereof) of significant transactions and other decisions, including, among others, acquisitions and dispositions of properties, new borrowings, significant capital expenditures, refinancings and the election and retention of DiamondRock's senior management. There is also direct oversight of specific areas of the Company's business by the Compensation, Audit and Nominating and Corporate Governance Committees and regular periodic reports from the Company's auditors and other outside consultants regarding various areas of potential risk, including, among others, those relating to the qualification of DiamondRock as a "real estate investment trust" for tax purposes and DiamondRock's internal controls and financial reporting. Our Board of Directors also relies on management to bring significant matters impacting DiamondRock to its attention. As part of its charter, our Audit Committee oversees our policies with respect to risk assessment and risk management.

Risk Considerations in our Compensation Program

Our Compensation Committee regularly considers whether our compensation program encourages our executives to prudently manage enterprise risk. DiamondRock's leadership and culture encourage long-term stockholder value creation, not short-term stockholder-value maximization. We evaluate performance based on both quantitative and qualitative factors and review not only "what" is achieved, but also "how" it is achieved. Consistent with our long-term focus, we do not believe that any of our compensation policies and practices for our named executive officers or any other employee encourage excessive risk-taking. In fact, many elements of our executive compensation program serve to mitigate excessive risk-taking. For example, we provide what we believe to be a balanced mix of base salary, annual cash incentives and long-term equity incentives. Our base salary provides a guaranteed level of income that does not vary with performance. We balance incentives tied to short-term annual performance with equity incentives for which value is earned over a multiple-year period. In this way, our executives are motivated to consider the impact of decisions over the short, intermediate, and long terms. Long-term equity incentive compensation is provided through the use of full-value shares and awards based on relative stockholder return, which encourage our executives to maintain as well as increase stockholder value. A significant portion of the long-term executive compensation is tied to the Company's performance measured over a three-year period relative to a lodging REIT peer group. Our clawback policy, stock ownership policies and anti-hedging policies further mitigate risk. We have not granted stock options for several years. For more information regarding our compensation program, see the section titled "Compensation Discussion and Analysis."

Communications with our Board of Directors

If you wish to communicate with any of our directors or our Board of Directors as a group, you may do so by writing to them at [Name(s) of Director(s)/Board of Directors of DiamondRock Hospitality Company], c/o Corporate Secretary, DiamondRock Hospitality Company, 3 Bethesda Metro Center, Suite 1500, Bethesda, MD 20814.

If you wish to contact our Audit Committee to report complaints or concerns regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters, you may do so by writing to the Chairman of the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors of DiamondRock Hospitality Company, c/o Corporate Secretary, DiamondRock Hospitality Company, 3 Bethesda Metro Center, Suite 1500, Bethesda, MD 20814. In addition, you may do so online at <http://www.drhc.com/whistleblowerPolicies.html>. You are welcome to make any such reports anonymously, but we prefer that you identify yourself so that we may contact you for additional information if necessary or appropriate.

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If you wish to communicate with our non-management directors as a group, you may do so by writing to Non-Management Directors of DiamondRock Hospitality Company, c/o Corporate Secretary, DiamondRock Hospitality Company, 3 Bethesda Metro Center, Suite 1500, Bethesda, MD 20814.

25

Table of Contents

We recommend that all correspondence be sent via certified U.S. mail, return receipt requested. All correspondence received by the Corporate Secretary will be forwarded by the Corporate Secretary promptly to the addressee(s).

Other Corporate Governance Matters

Code of Business Conduct and Ethics

We have adopted a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, or our Code of Ethics, relating to the conduct of our business by our employees, executive officers and directors. Day-to-day responsibility for administering and interpreting our Code of Ethics has been delegated by our Board of Directors to our General Counsel, who is also our chief compliance officer.

Our Code of Ethics contains compliance procedures, allows for the anonymous reporting of a suspected violation of our Code of Ethics and specifically forbids retaliation against any officer or employee who reports suspected misconduct in good faith. The provisions of our Code of Ethics may only be waived or amended by our Board of Directors or, if permitted, a committee of our Board of Directors. Such waivers or amendments must be promptly disclosed to our stockholders in accordance with applicable laws and rules and regulations of the NYSE. We intend to disclose any amendments to our Code of Ethics, as well as any waivers for executive officers, on our website. A copy of the Code of Ethics is available on our website at <http://www.drhc.com> under the heading “Corporate Governance” and subheading “Corporate Governance Charters.” A copy of our Code of Ethics is also available, without charge, in print to any stockholder upon written request addressed to Investor Relations, DiamondRock Hospitality Company, 3 Bethesda Metro Center, Suite 1500, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Corporate Governance Guidelines

Our Board of Directors has adopted Corporate Governance Guidelines, a copy of which is available on our website at <http://www.drhc.com> under the heading “Corporate Governance”, under the subheading “Corporate Governance Charters” and under the document entitled “Guidelines on Significant Governance Issues.” Our Corporate Governance Guidelines are also available, without charge, in print to any stockholder upon written request addressed to Investor Relations, DiamondRock Hospitality Company, 3 Bethesda Metro Center, Suite 1500, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Conflicts of Interest

Our Code of Ethics contains a conflicts of interest policy to reduce potential conflicts of interest. Our conflicts of interest policy provides that any material transaction or relationship that reasonably could be expected to give rise to a conflict of interest should be reported promptly to the compliance officer, who must then notify our Board of Directors or a committee of our Board of Directors. Actual or potential conflicts of interest involving a director, executive officer or the compliance officer should be disclosed directly to our Chairman of our Board of Directors and the Chairperson of our Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. A “conflict of interest” occurs when a director’s, officer’s or employee’s personal interest interferes with our interests.

Maryland law provides that a contract or other transaction between a corporation and any of the corporation’s directors or any other entity in which that director is also a director or has a material financial interest is not void or voidable solely on the grounds of the common directorship or interest, the fact that the director was present at the meeting at which the contract or transaction is approved or the fact that the director’s vote was counted in favor of the contract or transaction, if:

the fact of the common directorship or interest is disclosed or known to the board of directors or a committee of the board of directors, and the board of directors or that committee authorizes, approves or ratifies the contract or transaction by the affirmative vote of a majority of the disinterested directors, even if the disinterested directors constitute less than a quorum;

the fact of the common directorship or interest is disclosed to stockholders entitled to vote on the contract or transaction, and the contract or transaction is authorized, approved or ratified by a majority of the votes cast by the stockholders entitled to vote on the matter, other than the votes of shares owned of record or beneficially by the interested director, corporation, firm or other entity; or

the contract or transaction is fair and reasonable to the corporation.

Succession Policy

Our Board of Directors has adopted a succession policy for the Chief Executive Officer to cover emergency and other possible occurrences resulting in a vacancy in the position of Chief Executive Officer. Under this policy, our

Table of Contents

Compensation Committee is responsible to recommend to our full Board of Directors, in the event of an emergency, an interim Chief Executive Officer and to lead the search for a permanent Chief Executive Officer after the interim position has been filled or when there is sufficient time to fill the position when our Compensation Committee is aware that the position will become vacant for a reason other than an emergency.

Table of Contents

DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

The following chart summarizes the compensation earned by our non-employee directors in 2015. Directors who are employees receive no separate compensation for being members of our Board of Directors:

Name ⁽¹⁾	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$) ⁽¹⁾	Stock Awards (\$) ⁽²⁾	All Other Compensation (\$) ⁽³⁾	Total (\$)
William W. McCarten (Chairman)	178,750	82,500	1,215	262,465
W. Robert Grafton (Lead Director & Audit Committee Chairperson)	103,750	82,500	—	186,250
Daniel J. Altobello (Compensation Committee Chairperson)	93,750	82,500	5,762	182,012
Timothy R. Chi ⁽⁴⁾ (Director)	46,458	82,500	—	128,958
Maureen L. McAvey (Director)	78,750	82,500	—	161,250
Gilbert T. Ray (Nominating and Governance Committee Chairperson)	88,750	82,500	10,000	181,250
Bruce D. Wardinski (Director)	78,750	82,500	—	161,250

(1) Mr. Brugger is not included in this table because he was an employee of the Company in 2015 and thus received no separate compensation for service as a director.

The amounts set forth in this column represent the grant-date fair value of unrestricted stock awards to our non-employee directors. Each non-employee director, except Mr. Chi, was granted 6,040 fully vested shares of common stock on May 15, 2015 except Directors who deferred the receipt of the annual unrestricted stock award.

(2) Mr. Chi was granted 6,532 fully vested shares of common stock on August 12, 2015. All such shares had a market value of \$82,500 on each respective grant date, based on the closing price for shares of our common stock on the NYSE on such day. The fair market value of such shares was recognized as compensation expense on the grant date.

The non-employee directors are permitted to elect to defer the receipt of the annual unrestricted stock award. Those non-employee directors who elect to defer such awards were instead granted an award of deferred stock units. The deferred stock units will be settled in shares of stock in a lump sum six months after the director ceases to be a member of our Board of Directors. Messrs. Grafton and Ray elected to receive deferred stock units and Messrs. McCarten, Altobello, Chi and Wardinski and Ms. McAvey elected to receive shares of common stock.

(3) Reimbursement for lodging, meals, parking and certain other expenses at one of our hotels or other hotels or resorts.

(4) Mr. Chi was appointed to our Board of Directors effective June 1, 2015.

Cash Compensation

We compensate our directors through an annual retainer as opposed to per meeting fees. We have structured their compensation in this manner in order to simplify and clarify director compensation as each of our three standing committees was comprised of the same six independent directors in 2015 and often a meeting might discuss matters involving the area of responsibility of more than one committee. In August of each year, our Compensation Committee reviews the compensation of our non-employee directors.

In 2015, our Compensation Committee engaged F.W. Cook to conduct a study of compensation paid to non-employee directors of comparable public companies. Based on this review, the annual cash retainer for Board service was

increased by \$2,500 (from \$77,500 to \$80,000) effective July 1, 2015. Therefore, the cash retainer paid was \$38,750 for the six months ended June 30, 2015, and \$40,000 for the six months ended December 31, 2015. The additional retainers for our Chairman, Committee Chairs and the Lead Director were unchanged.

The following chart reflects the annual cash retainers paid to our non-employee directors in 2015.

Table of Contents

Name	Annual Fee for Board Membership	Annual Fee for Committee Chairs & Lead Director	Total Cash Fees Paid
William W. McCarten (Chairman)	\$78,750	\$100,000	\$178,750
W. Robert Grafton ⁽¹⁾ (Lead Director & Audit Committee Chairperson)	\$78,750	\$25,000	\$103,750
Daniel J. Altobello (Compensation Committee Chairperson)	\$78,750	\$15,000	\$93,750
Timothy R. Chi (Director)	\$46,458	\$—	\$46,458
Maureen L. McAvey (Director)	\$78,750	\$—	\$78,750
Gilbert T. Ray (Nominating and Governance Committee Chairperson)	\$78,750	\$10,000	\$88,750
Bruce D. Wardinski (Director)	\$78,750	\$—	\$78,750

⁽¹⁾ The additional annual retainer for our lead director is \$10,000 and the additional annual retainer for the Audit Committee Chairperson is \$15,000.

Equity Compensation

As part of their regular annual compensation, each of our non-employee directors receives a grant of fully vested shares of common stock each year. The non-employee directors may elect to defer the receipt of the annual stock award. Those non-employee directors who elect to defer such awards will instead be granted an award of deferred stock units and the deferred stock units will be settled in shares of common stock in a lump sum six months after the director ceases to be a member of our Board of Directors. On May 15, 2015, we issued (i) 6,040 shares of common stock to each of those directors electing to receive the equity award and (ii) 6,040 deferred stock units to each of those directors electing to defer the equity award, both of which had a value of \$82,500, based on the closing stock price for our common stock on such day. On August 12, 2015, we issued 6,532 shares of our common stock to Mr. Chi, which had a value of \$82,500 based on the closing stock price for our common stock on such day. Based on the review of director compensation conducted in July 2015 by F.W. Cook, the annual equity grant value was increased from \$82,500 to \$85,000, to be effective for the grant made at the 2016 annual meeting.

Expenses and Perquisites

We reimburse our directors for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in attending meetings of our Board of Directors or its committees or attending continuing professional education classes.

In addition, each of the members of our Board of Directors is entitled to reimbursement for up to \$10,000 per annum of lodging, meals, parking and certain other expenses at all of our hotels as well as at other hotels and resorts. The purpose of this policy is to encourage our directors to visit our hotels and other hotels in order to maintain and enhance their knowledge of our portfolio and the lodging industry. All of such reimbursement was considered taxable income to the director who stayed at the hotel or resort and is disclosed in the “All Other Compensation” column of the chart entitled “Director Compensation.”

Stock Ownership Policy for Directors

Under our stock ownership policy, each of our non-employee directors has an ownership target which establishes, on an annual basis, the number of shares each non-employee director should hold of Company stock. If a non-employee director holds less than the ownership target, he or she is restricted from selling any shares of Company stock until such time as he or she holds shares in excess of the ownership target, except as needed to pay personal taxes related to the issuance of Company stock from equity compensation grants, and except for shares that the director has purchased on the open market.

Table of Contents

We count towards this minimum equity ownership policy owned shares and deferred stock units. The ownership target for a non-employee director is determined by multiplying the annual fee for Board membership for that year by five and then dividing that result by the average closing price of the Company's common stock during the first 10 trading days of the same calendar year (\$8.96 per share for 2016). Each of our non-employee directors holds shares in excess of his or her 2016 ownership target, except that Mr. Wardinski, and Mr. Chi, who were appointed to our Board of Directors in 2013 and 2015, respectively, have not had sufficient time to accumulate shares equal to his ownership target. Both Mr. Wardinski and Mr. Chi have not sold any shares.

30

Table of Contents

COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Executive Summary

Our “named executive officers” for 2015 were as follows:

Name	Title
Mark W. Brugger	President and Chief Executive Officer
Sean M. Mahoney	Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer
Robert D. Tanenbaum	Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
Troy G. Furbay	Executive Vice President and Chief Investment Officer
William J. Tennis	Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary

Our executive compensation program has been designed to meet the following objectives:

- to be straightforward, transparent and market-based;
- to create proper incentives for our executive team to achieve corporate and individual performance objectives and maximize long-term stockholder value; and
- to comply with sound corporate governance practices.

Our executive compensation program consists of base salary, annual cash incentive compensation opportunities, annual long-term equity incentive grants and limited perquisites.

Company Highlights

In 2015, the lodging industry entered its sixth year of growth, and, while demand growth moderated in 2015, supply growth remains below average in most markets. We believe our high-quality hotel portfolio is well positioned to perform in-line with top lodging markets in the U.S. We continued to successfully execute on our strategic objectives, including an intense focus on asset management, capital investment, and balance sheet management.

We realized several significant accomplishments in 2015, including:

- Increased Pro Forma Revenue per Available Room (RevPAR) by 4.7 % from 2014.
- Achieved 73% profit flow through from our portfolio.
- Expanded hotel Adjusted EBITDA margins by 114 basis points, exceeding our budget.
- Exceeded underwritten Hotel Adjusted EBITDA for 5 hotels acquired in 2014 and 2015 by approximately \$3 million.
- Acquired two hotels for approximately \$152.5 million: the Shorebreak Hotel and Sheraton Suites Key West.
- Paid four quarterly dividends totaling \$0.50 per share, returning approximately \$96 million to stockholders.
- Issued approximately \$72 million of common stock at average price of \$15.13 per share and accretively re-deployed the proceeds into acquisitions.
 - Arranged mortgage loans secured by three of our hotels, and repaid in full mortgage loans on two hotels, and a third hotel in January 2016, increasing proceeds and reducing our weighted average interest rate by approximately 80 basis points.

Table of Contents

2015 Compensation Overview

Highlighted below are the key components of our executive compensation program, the purpose of each component and the process for determining each component.

Compensation Component	Description and Purpose	Process/Highlights
Base Salary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed compensation necessary to attract and retain executive talent. Based on competitive market, individual role, experience, performance and potential. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive base salaries are reviewed in the fourth quarter each year. Refer to the subsection entitled "Base Salary" under the discussion of "Compensation Elements" for a three-year history of base salaries for the named executive officers.
Annual Cash Incentive Compensation	<p>Performance-based cash incentives that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reward achievement of annual performance objectives. Tied to Company's business plan and individual goals. <p>Based 70% on Adjusted Funds From Operations (AFFO) per share, 25% on individual objectives, and 5% on hotel market share performance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2015, our AFFO per share was \$1.09 resulting in a payout of approximately 110% of target for this component. Our hotel market share performance resulted in a payout of 89% of target for this component. The executives achieved the maximum for their individual objectives. Actual bonuses paid for 2015 performance were approximately 131% of each executive's target opportunity. Refer to the subsection entitled "Cash Incentive Compensation Program" under the discussion of "Compensation Elements" for more detail.
Long-Term Equity Incentive Compensation	<p>Aligns executive compensation with total</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> stockholder return over multi-year performance and vesting periods. Promotes retention of key talent. <p>50% of long-term equity incentives are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> earned based on Company performance relative to peers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants are made in the first quarter each year. Grants made in 2015 were 50% in performance stock units (PSUs) that may be earned from 0% to 150% of a target number of PSUs based on our total stockholder return relative to a peer group over a three-year performance period and 50% in restricted stock that vests over three years. Refer to the subsection entitled "Long-Term Equity Incentive Compensation Program" under the discussion of "Compensation Elements" for more detail.
Benefits and Limited Perquisites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designed to attract and retain high-performing employees. Includes health and dental insurance, term life insurance, disability coverage and a 401(k) plan match. Named executive officers participate in the same benefits plans as all other employees, with the exception of a deferred compensation plan, in which executive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All employee plans are reviewed annually.

officers and certain senior-level employees may defer earned compensation. There is no Company match in effect for the deferred compensation plan.

As a member of our Board of Directors, Mr.

- Brugger is entitled to annual reimbursement of up to \$10,000 for certain hotel stays, which he has never used.

Table of Contents

Target Direct Compensation Mix

The following charts illustrate the target mix between direct compensation elements (base salary, annual cash bonus and long-term equity incentives in the form of restricted stock (RS) and PSUs) for our Chief Executive Officer and the average of our other named executive officers.

*Other NEOs include Messrs. Furbay, Mahoney, Tanenbaum and Tennis.

Compensation Best Practices

Our executive compensation program incorporates the following best practices:

• Our executives' total compensation opportunity is primarily based on performance, awarded through our annual and long-term incentive compensation programs.

• No guarantees of minimum cash incentive payments are provided.

• Our Chief Executive Officer receives approximately 60% and other named executive officers receive approximately half of total compensation in the form of long-term equity incentives.

• No dividends are paid on unvested stock awards unless and until the awards actually vest.

• Any change in control payments under severance agreements are subject to a "double-trigger."

• Named executive officers are required to accumulate and hold a meaningful amount of stock.

No perquisites are provided to named executive officers that are not otherwise provided to all employees, except for Mr. Brugger in his capacity as a member of our Board of Directors and a deferred compensation plan, in which executive officers and certain senior-level employees may defer earned compensation. There is no Company match in effect under the deferred compensation plan.

• Our Compensation Committee retains and meets regularly with an independent compensation consultant to advise on executive and director compensation.

• Our Compensation Committee regularly reviews the Company's incentive compensation plans to ensure they are designed to create and maintain stockholder value and do not encourage excessive risk.

• Clawback policy is in effect to recover amounts inappropriately paid in the event of a restatement of our financial statements.

• Anti-hedging policy is in effect to prohibit short sales and the purchase or sale of puts, calls or other derivative securities of the Company.

Table of Contents

Pledging of Company securities is prohibited unless our Compensation Committee gives prior approval. Our programs are designed to be financially efficient from tax, accounting, cash flow and share dilution perspectives. Compensation Committee Procedures, Compensation Consultant, Input of Named Executive Officers on Compensation and Stockholder Advisory Resolution

Our Compensation Committee is responsible for determining the amount and composition of compensation paid to our Chief Executive Officer and all other executive officers. Our Compensation Committee exercises its independent discretion in reviewing and approving the executive compensation program as a whole, as well as specific compensation levels for each executive officer.

In determining executive compensation for 2015, our Compensation Committee considered the overwhelming stockholder support for the "say-on-pay" proposal received at the 2014 annual meeting of stockholders. As a result, our Compensation Committee continued to apply the same effective principles and philosophy it has used in previous years in determining executive compensation and will continue to consider stockholder concerns and feedback in the future. Further, at the 2015 annual meeting of stockholders, stockholders again overwhelmingly endorsed the Company's executive compensation by voting 96% in favor of such compensation.

Independent Consultant

F.W. Cook advises our Compensation Committee on compensation program design and the amounts we should pay to our executives. They provide our Compensation Committee with information on executive compensation trends, best practices and advice for potential improvements to the executive compensation program. F.W. Cook also advises our Compensation Committee on the design of the compensation program for non-employee directors. F.W. Cook does not work for management, receives no compensation from the Company other than for its work in advising our Compensation Committee, and maintains no other economic relationships with the Company. As part of the process of assessing the effectiveness of the Company's compensation programs, F.W. Cook receives input from our Chief Executive Officer regarding the Company's strategic goals and the manner in which the compensation plans should support these goals.

Annual Process

In the fourth quarter of each year, our Compensation Committee reviews the total compensation of each of our executive officers for the prior year, including an estimate of the incentive plan compensation for the current year, a summary of all executive severance agreements and a calculation of potential change-in-control costs. Our Compensation Committee, at this meeting, also reviews appropriate compensation studies and surveys. After the review, our Compensation Committee finalizes and approves the design of the compensation plan for the upcoming year.

Our Compensation Committee engages F.W. Cook to provide a benchmarking study of executive officer compensation compared to similarly situated REITs, or what we call "competitive sets." Following the review of the study and considering the skill level of each executive, our Compensation Committee sets an appropriate base salary for the executive officers along with target bonuses and equity awards for the following year.

Subsequent to the end of the year, once the financial results for the prior year are available and the annual budget for the current year is finalized, our Compensation Committee reviews the achievement of the formulaic components of the cash incentive program and individual objectives. Based on this review, our Compensation Committee finalizes and approves the annual cash incentive compensation for the prior year. Additionally, our Compensation Committee finalizes the structure of the current year annual cash incentive compensation program and the amount and structure of the long-term incentive awards.

We believe our programs are effectively designed and working well in alignment with the interests of our stockholders and are instrumental to achieving our business strategy. The compensation structure for our named executive officers in 2016 will change from 2015 to (i) eliminate from the Cash Incentive Compensation Program the Hotel Market Share Performance component as described below under "Cash Incentive Compensation Program" and (ii) include in Performance Stock Units, a Hotel Market Share Performance component as described below under "Performance Stock Units."

Table of Contents

Use of Competitive Sets

Each year, our Compensation Committee conducts a review of the executive compensation program in terms of both design and compensation levels. This includes a competitive analysis of our compensation practices versus those of our peers with a focus on other lodging REITs. We confirm that our compensation levels are in line with the overall market by evaluating our compensation against a secondary competitive set of similarly-sized, self-managed, non-lodging REITs. While the compensation practices of the non-lodging REIT competitive set is reviewed for reference, our Compensation Committee focuses predominantly on the lodging REIT competitive set when making compensation decisions. As we target our total compensation to be at or close to the median of our competitive sets, we seek to ensure that at least approximately half of the target compensation opportunity provided to our executives is in the form of equity; as a result, our executives' cash compensation may be targeted at a level below or above the median cash compensation paid to members of our competitive sets. We generally attempt to pay base salaries at levels competitive with that of our competitive sets.

In 2014, F.W. Cook conducted a competitive analysis of executive compensation levels against our competitive sets to assist our Compensation Committee in making compensation decisions with respect to target pay opportunities for our executives for 2015. The primary competitive set was comprised of nine lodging-focused, self-managed REITs. We typically review the executive compensation practices at Host Hotels & Resorts, Inc. (NYSE: HST), but we exclude this information from our competitive set as HST is substantially larger than us. The secondary competitive set was comprised of eleven similarly-sized, self-managed, non-lodging REITs, which invest in a variety of assets, including office, apartment and retail properties. The REITs in each competitive set for the 2014 analysis were:

Lodging REIT Competitive Set

Company	Ticker Symbol
Ashford Hospitality Trust	AHT
Chesapeake Lodging Trust	CHSP
Felcor Lodging Trust	FCH
LaSalle Hotel Properties	LHO
Pebblebrook Hotel Trust	PEB
RLJ Lodging Trust	RLJ
Ryman Hospitality Properties, Inc.	RHP
Strategic Hotels and Resorts, Inc.	BEE
Sunstone Hotel Investors, Inc.	SHO

Non-Lodging REIT Competitive Set

Company	Ticker Symbol
Brandywine Realty Trust	BDN
Corporate Office Properties Trust	OFC
DCT Industrial	DCT
East Group Properties, Inc.	EGP
EPR Properties	EPR
Equity One, Inc.	EQY
First Industrial Realty Trust	FR
Healthcare Trust of America, Inc.	HTA
Medical Properties Trust	MPW
Post Properties, Inc.	PPS
Sun Communities, Inc.	SUI

In 2015, F.W. Cook again conducted a competitive analysis of executive compensation levels against two competitive sets to assist our Compensation Committee in making compensation decisions with respect to target pay opportunities

for our executives for 2016. The same Lodging REIT competitive set was used for the 2014 and 2015 analyses except that Xenia Hotels & Resorts was added. The REITs in the Non-Lodging REIT competitive set were the same in both years except that Post Properties was not included for the 2015 analysis.

Table of Contents

Our executives' actual compensation for 2015 compared to the 2014 compensation of executives in our most recent competitive sets is as follows:

Lodging REIT Competitive Set

Executive	Benchmark	Base Salary	Annual Cash Incentive	Equity	Total Compensation
Mr. Brugger	Chief Executive Officer	6 of 11	7 of 10	6 of 11	8 of 10
Mr. Mahoney	Chief Financial Officer	8 of 11	5 of 11	5 of 11	5 of 11
Mr. Tanenbaum	Top Operations/Asset Management Officer ⁽¹⁾	8 of 9	3 of 9	7 of 9	7 of 9
Mr. Furbay	Chief Investment Officer ⁽¹⁾	3 of 6	4 of 6	5 of 6	5 of 6
Mr. Tennis	General Counsel ⁽¹⁾	4 of 5	2 of 5	4 of 5	4 of 5

Certain of the companies included in the Lodging REIT and Non-Lodging REIT competitive sets do not publicly ⁽¹⁾ report compensation for a Top Operations/Asset Management Officer, Chief Investment Officer or General Counsel.

Non-Lodging REIT Competitive Set

Executive	Benchmark	Base Salary	Annual Cash Incentive	Equity	Total Compensation
Mr. Brugger	Chief Executive Officer	5 of 11	3 of 10	4 of 11	4 of 10
Mr. Mahoney	Chief Financial Officer	4 of 11	2 of 9	4 of 11	4 of 9
Mr. Tanenbaum	Top Operations/Asset Management Officer	7 of 9	2 of 8	4 of 9	5 of 8
Mr. Furbay	Chief Investment Officer	2 of 3	2 of 3	3 of 3	3 of 3
Mr. Tennis	General Counsel	1 of 3	1 of 3	1 of 3	1 of 3

Combined Competitive Sets

Executive	Benchmark	Base Salary	Annual Cash Incentive	Equity	Total Compensation
Mr. Brugger	Chief Executive Officer	50 th -75 th Percentile	50 th -75 th Percentile	50 th -75 th Percentile	25 th -50 th Percentile
Mr. Mahoney	Chief Financial Officer	50 th -75 th Percentile	50 th -75 th Percentile	50 th -75 th Percentile	50 th -75 th Percentile
Mr. Tanenbaum	Top Operations/Asset Management Officer	<25 th Percentile	>75 th Percentile	25 th -50 th Percentile	25 th -50 th Percentile
Mr. Furbay	Chief Investment Officer	50 th -75 th Percentile	25 th -50 th Percentile	<25 th Percentile	<25 th Percentile
Mr. Tennis	General Counsel	25 th -50 th Percentile	>75 th Percentile	25 th -50 th Percentile	25 th -50 th Percentile

The tables above reflect our relative ranking in actual compensation for 2015 versus peer group data for 2014.

However, the Committee primarily uses the competitive data to set prospective target pay opportunities. Actual compensation may be above or below these targets, based on actual performance. Furthermore, the realized value of equity compensation will likely vary from the target value depending on our stockholder return performance, both on an absolute basis and, with respect to the PSUs, relative to the peer group. With respect to target pay opportunities:

Our Compensation Committee reviewed the market data prepared by F.W. Cook in the fourth quarter of 2015. Based on this review, our Compensation Committee decided to maintain Mr. Brugger's total compensation opportunity at the same amount for 2016. In reaching these conclusions our Compensation Committee relied on several factors:

In addition to achieving the goals for the Company and himself established in the beginning of the year, Mr. Brugger also led the Company in achieving the accomplishments set forth above under 2015 Performance Highlights.

Table of Contents

Mr. Brugger has extensive experience in lodging, real estate and public company finance and management, and has more than 20 years of experience as a real estate executive including valuable experience in his role as Chief Executive Officer of the Company for six years and a member of a board of another public company.

Our Compensation Committee concluded that, in light of Mr. Mahoney's experience as Chief Financial Officer, each of the major elements of Mr. Mahoney's compensation, as well as his total compensation, for 2015 should be targeted near the median in each of the various competitive sets.

Our Compensation Committee determined the compensation for Mr. Tanenbaum, as Chief Operating Officer, based on several factors, including his more than 20 years of experience in the lodging industry. Our Compensation Committee targeted the compensation of Mr. Tanenbaum to be close to the median in each of the Lodging REIT competitive sets.

Our Compensation Committee determined the compensation of Mr. Furbay, as the Chief Investment Officer, based on several factors. Our Compensation Committee believed that the compensation should reflect his considerable experience and success as a chief investment officer and head of acquisitions with other companies prior to joining DiamondRock as well as his success in integrating into the Company as an important member of the executive team.

Target pay opportunities for Mr. Tennis were set with reference to the market data, but also taking into consideration his experience in the lodging industry. Our Compensation Committee believes that Mr. Tennis' target compensation opportunity is appropriate in light of his responsibilities and significant knowledge gained over his two decades of experience in the lodging industry.

Stockholder Advisory Resolution

During our 2015 annual meeting, stockholders were provided the opportunity to cast votes to approve a non-binding advisory resolution on executive compensation (a "say-on-pay" proposal). We recommended that stockholders vote in favor of the say-on-pay proposal. Approximately 96% of stockholders voting at our 2015 annual meeting voted to approve the non-binding advisory resolution on executive compensation. As a result of the high level of stockholder support, our Compensation Committee did not make changes to the structure of our overall compensation program.

Compensation Elements

Our compensation program seeks to promote our compensation philosophy and objectives through an appropriate mix of four core elements of compensation:

1. base salary;
2. cash incentive compensation program;
3. long-term incentive compensation; and
4. benefits and limited perquisites.

1. Base Salary

We review our executives' base salaries annually in the fourth quarter of each calendar year.

Our primary compensation philosophy is to target our total compensation to be at or close to the median of our competitive sets and to ensure that at least approximately half of the target compensation opportunity for our senior executives is in the form of equity. As a result, our executives' cash compensation may be targeted at a level below or above the median cash compensation paid to members of our competitive sets, with a primary focus on the lodging REIT competitive set. During our annual compensation review, we generally attempt to set the base salaries within the range of base salaries paid to members of our competitive sets. However, we adjust base salaries to reflect each executive's assigned responsibilities, relevant level of experience and individual performance compared to other members of the competitive sets.

The base salaries for 2016, 2015 and 2014 are as follows:

Table of Contents

Name	2016	2015	2014
Mark W. Brugger	\$765,000	\$765,000	\$725,000
Sean M. Mahoney	\$424,000	\$412,000	\$400,000
Robert D. Tanenbaum	\$424,000	\$412,000	\$400,000
Troy G. Furbay	\$414,000	\$402,000	\$390,000
William J. Tennis	\$372,000	\$361,000	\$350,000

For the calendar year 2015, our Compensation Committee determined that Mr. Brugger's base salary would increase by approximately 5.5% to maintain his target compensation at the median of the Lodging REIT Competitive Set. This was the first increase in Mr. Brugger's base salary in three years. In addition, our Compensation Committee determined it was appropriate to increase the base salaries of Messrs. Mahoney, Tanenbaum, Furbay and Tennis by approximately 3% based on the median base salary among the competitive sets. The base salary increase for these executive officers was also consistent with the base salary increases for all other employees of the Company.

For the calendar year 2016, our Compensation Committee determined that Mr. Brugger's base salary would not increase and his target compensation remains at the median of the Lodging REIT Competitive Set. In addition, our Compensation Committee determined it was appropriate to again increase the base salaries of Messrs. Mahoney, Tanenbaum, Furbay and Tennis by approximately 3% based on the median base salary among the competitive sets. The base salary increase for these executive officers is also consistent with the base salary increases for all other employees of the Company. The respective base salaries for all of our named executive officers are in the median range of the lodging REIT competitive set.

2. Cash Incentive Compensation Program

We maintain an annual cash incentive compensation program pursuant to which our executive officers are eligible to earn cash bonuses based upon their achievement of certain objective corporate goals as well as certain individual goals set by our Compensation Committee at the beginning of that fiscal year. To date, no cash incentive compensation has been paid to our executives other than in accordance with this program.

The performance measures and weightings established by our Compensation Committee for 2015 under our cash incentive compensation program are set forth below.

Components of Cash Incentive Compensation Program	Weighting
Adjusted Funds From Operations per share (AFFO per share) ⁽¹⁾	70%
Hotel Market Share Performance	5%
Achievement of certain individual performance objectives	25%

We compute the AFFO component of the cash incentive program by adjusting Funds From Operations (or FFO), which we calculate in accordance with the standards established by NAREIT, for certain non-cash items. Refer to (1) "Non-GAAP Financial Measures" in Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015. In addition, the Budget AFFO per share excludes the income tax provision and corporate bonus expense.

AFFO Per Share

The AFFO component of our cash incentive compensation program is determined by calculating how well the Company performed against the AFFO target, which is based on the 2015 budget approved by our Board of Directors. Our 2015 AFFO target of \$1.08 was approximately 23% higher than our 2014 AFFO target of \$0.88 and approximately 17% higher than our 2014 actual AFFO of \$0.92. The following table illustrates the threshold, target, and maximum AFFO per share objectives for the 2015 cash incentive program.

Performance Level	AFFO/Share	Cash Incentive Payout (as % of Target)
<Threshold	< \$0.97	0%
Threshold	\$0.97	50%
Target	\$1.08	100%
Maximum	\$1.19	200%

Table of Contents

For performance that falls between threshold and the target or between the target and maximum, bonuses are calculated based on a linear interpolation for achievement in between each of those performance levels, with the maximum that a named executive officer could earn being 200% of the target. In 2015, the senior executives earned approximately 110% of target under this component based on AFFO per share of \$1.09.

Hotel Market Share Performance

The Hotel Market Share Performance component of our cash incentive compensation program is based on the achievement of established goals for each hotel's market penetration relative to its respective local competitors, as measured by Smith Travel Research, a third party research firm. This component incents the management team to focus on relative performance of the hotel regardless of the economic environment. For each of the hotels we owned for the majority of 2015 that achieved the market share penetration goal, the executives earned 1/27 of the maximum opportunity for this component of their bonus. In order for a hotel to achieve the market share penetration goal, the hotel's share of the market in a pre-determined set of competitive hotels must meet or exceed a penetration goal established at the beginning of the year as measured by Smith Travel Research. In 2015, 12 of the 27 hotels measured achieved their market share penetration goal; therefore, the senior executives earned 89% of target (44% percent of maximum) for this component.

Individual Performance Objectives

Twenty-five percent of each executive's annual cash incentive is based on achievement of individual objectives. Our Compensation Committee established individual objectives for each of the executive officers, which objectives varied by individual depending on their specific responsibilities.

The executive officers shared several common objectives in 2015, as follows:

Objective	Target	Actual
Achieve Hotel Adjusted EBITDA Margin expansion goal	108 basis points	114 basis points
Achieve underwriting for 2014 and 2015 acquisitions	Underwritten Hotel Adjusted EBITDA	Exceeded by approximately \$3.4 million
Acquire strategic assets and raise equity	\$300 million in strategic assets and \$100 of equity	Acquired \$152.5 million of strategic assets and raised \$72 million of equity.*
Restructure the Capital Expenditure function	N/A	Achieved
Refinance 2015 debt maturities	N/A	Achieved
Hotel level objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebrand the Conrad Chicago • Replace manager of Hilton Garden Inn Chelsea • Replace manager of Westin Washington D.C. • Complete Hilton Boston guest room expansion project • Complete phase one of the Chicago Marriott renovation • Achieve 2015 budget for The Lexington Hotel New York • Achieve the 2015 budget for Hilton Garden Inn Times Square 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed in September 2015 • Completed in June 2015 • Completed in April 2015 • Completed in May 2015 • Completed in April 2015 • Not achieved due to declining New York market • Achieved

Table of Contents

After raising approximately \$72 million of equity and acquiring approximately \$152.5 million of assets, our Board of Directors determined that it was not prudent to acquire further assets due to a change in market conditions.

Because our equity issuances were intended to fund acquisitions, our Board of Directors also determined we should cease issuing equity at this time. For these reasons, we did not achieve this goal.

The other objectives were personal to each executive officer and varied based upon the executive's position and responsibilities as they related to the Company's overall business plan. A summary of each executive's objectives is as follows:

Mr. Brugger's objectives primarily involved providing leadership in achieving the Company's 2015 objectives, implementing the strategic plan for the Company for 2015 in a manner that maximized stockholder value, establishing clear objectives for senior management to align the individual and Company objectives, focusing the asset management team on maximizing operational results at our hotels, establishing priorities for capital expenditures and putting in place resources and analysis to develop plans to complete capital projects, and developing an investor relations plan to articulate and convey the Company's strategy to investors.

Mr. Mahoney's objectives primarily involved refining the Company's strategy to enhance long-term value creation for the Company's shareholders, taking a leading role in determining and implementing the structure for the capital expenditure group, implementing a personal development plan, focusing on enhancing investor relations and proactively communicating the Company's strategy to investors.

Mr. Tanenbaum's objectives primarily involved achieving a budgeted profit margin goal established for our portfolio, determining and implementing the structure for the capital expenditure group, focusing on personal professional development and professional development of the asset management team and executing on several objectives for specific hotels, including implementation of sales strategies, brand and manager changes, margin improvements and capital expenditures for certain hotels.

Mr. Furbay's objectives primarily involved investing over \$150 million in the acquisition of new hotels, exploring the sale of a limited number of the Company's non-core hotels, analyzing and recommending whether to invest in the expansion of our Westin Boston Waterfront hotel, and working with asset management to determine a new brand and manager for the Conrad Chicago.

Mr. Tennis' objectives primarily involved advising the COO, CFO and CIO on hotel acquisitions and dispositions, financings, implementation of changes to brands and managers at specific hotels, legal proceedings and critical labor matters, enhancing the level of communication on various matters among the executive officers as well as other associates, taking a leading role in determining and implementing the structure for the capital expenditure group and prudently managing legal costs.

Our Compensation Committee requested that each of the executives prepare a report summarizing individual achievements relative to individual business objectives, and our Compensation Committee asked our Chief Executive Officer to provide his assessment of each officer. In addition, the Company engaged a consultant to work with the Chairman of the Board to prepare a complete assessment of the performance of the Chief Executive Officer which assessment was delivered to our Board of Directors. Following the review of the reports and a detailed discussion with our Chief Executive Officer regarding each of the other officers, our Compensation Committee concluded that each of the executives, including the Chief Executive Officer, substantially completed all of the individual objectives and that each executive earned a maximum payout for the individual component of each executive's bonus. Our Compensation Committee reached this conclusion upon weighing the results achieved by the Company in 2015. Not only did each executive professionally perform the objectives personal to him at a high level, but together the executives achieved the strong results for the Company outlined above under Company Highlights. Further, while our Compensation Committee acknowledged that the Company's total shareholder return did not perform well during 2015 due to a general reduction in the stock market for all lodging stocks, the executive officers of the Company were, nevertheless, able to drive successful operating results for the Company as summarized under Company Highlights above.

The annual incentive opportunity ranges for 2015 and the actual cash incentive compensation earned and paid for 2015 performance as a percentage of base salary were as follows:

Table of Contents

Name	2015 Cash Incentive Opportunity			2015 Cash Incentive Earned	
	Threshold	Target	Maximum	% of Base Salary	\$ Value
Mark W. Brugger	60	% 120	% 240	% 158	% \$1,206,660
Sean M. Mahoney	40	% 80	% 160	% 105	% \$433,241
Robert D. Tanenbaum	40	% 80	% 160	% 105	% \$433,241
Troy G. Furbay	40	% 80	% 160	% 105	% \$422,725
William J. Tennis	40	% 80	% 160	% 105	% \$379,612

3. Long-Term Incentive Compensation

Generally, we target providing at least approximately half of each executive's target compensation opportunity in the form of long-term equity incentives. However, our Compensation Committee determines, in its sole discretion, the actual amount of equity to be awarded to our executive officers each year reflecting our performance in the prior year, individual performance and competitive levels of long-term incentive compensation among our competitive sets. On this basis, our Compensation Committee determined that Mr. Brugger's long-term equity incentive award should be approximately 60% of his total compensation in order to further align his compensation with the total stockholder return of the Company.

We grant equity awards to align the interests of our executives with those of our stockholders, and to create incentives for our executives to protect and grow shareholder value, including through maintenance and growth of our dividend. Our executive officers are not guaranteed any minimum number of shares of restricted stock or other equity grants. We generally grant equity awards annually in February.

Types of Awards

Commencing in 2013, based on a recommendation from F.W. Cook, we granted an award to each executive officer that consisted of 50% restricted stock and 50% performance stock units, or PSUs. From 2010 to 2012, we granted awards consisting of 75% restricted stock and 25% market stock units, or MSUs. Each of these types of awards is described in more detail below.

Restricted Stock

We grant restricted stock to align the interests of our executive officers with those of our stockholders and to help retain the services of our executives through multi-year vesting schedules. Our restricted stock awards vest in three equal annual installments from the date of grant. All dividends on unvested shares accrue and are paid out only when the underlying restricted shares vest.

Performance Stock Units

PSUs entitle each executive officer to earn shares of common stock subject to the achievement of certain levels of total stockholder return relative to the total stockholder return of a peer group over a three-year performance period. Earned shares, if any, vest at the end of the three-year performance period. Dividends are not paid currently on the common stock underlying the PSUs; instead, the dividends are treated as "re-invested" and are only earned to the extent the underlying PSU is also earned. For 2015 PSU awards, the peer group used for purposes of calculating the relative performance of the Company's stock for the 2015-2017 performance period was the same as the Lodging REIT Competitive Set referred to above, with the addition of Host Hotels & Resorts. Strategic Hotels and Resorts was acquired in late 2015, and therefore was dropped from the peer group, pursuant to the PSU program rules.

Each executive officer is granted a target number of PSUs. The actual number of PSUs earned will range from zero to 150% of the target number of PSUs based on the Company's percentile rank relative to the peer group at the end of the three-year performance period. The total stockholder return of the Company and each of the peer group companies is equal to the ratio of (x) the 30-day average closing price of common stock as of the last day of the performance period, plus dividends, assuming reinvestment in additional shares, to (y) the 30-day average closing price of common stock as of the first day of the performance period. Based on this ratio, the Company's relative total stockholder return percentile within the peer group is determined and the number of PSUs earned is calculated in accordance with the following:

Table of Contents

DRH Relative TSR Percentage Rank*	Percent of Target PSUs Earned
< 30th Percentile	0%
30th Percentile	50%
50th Percentile	100%
> or Equal to 75th Percentile	150%

*Linear interpolation for performance between the 30th and 50th percentile and for performance between the 50th and 75th percentile

PSUs are settled at the end of the three-year performance period by the issuance of a share of common stock for every PSU earned.

Our Compensation Committee decided to incorporate PSUs into our long-term incentive program in an effort to create stronger pay-for-performance alignment. Our Compensation Committee has evaluated several long-term incentive alternatives over the years to determine a mix that best supports our objectives and is effective for us, given our REIT structure. Our Compensation Committee believes that PSUs align our interests with those of stockholders because they calibrate earned compensation to our performance relative to our peers, which are investment alternatives for our stockholders. As compared to time-based restricted stock, PSUs reward both absolute and relative total stockholder return.

Our Compensation Committee believes that our long-term incentive program, particularly the PSU component, strongly aligns earned compensation with total stockholder return. For the PSUs which were granted in 2013 and vested on February 27, 2016, our executive officers received 89.5% of the target, reflecting the Company's total stockholder return in the 45th percentile of the peer group for the three year period ending on February 26, 2016. Although the performance periods for the 2014 and 2015 PSUs have not ended, as of February 27, 2016, payouts under both performance periods were tracking at zero because the Company's relative total stockholder return as of that date was below the 30th percentile threshold. As required under SEC rules, the values shown in the Summary Compensation Table and Grants of Plan-Based Awards table in this and prior proxy statements with respect to the PSUs were higher, because they are based on grant-date fair value, not earned value.

Market Stock Units

We granted MSUs to each executive officer in 2010, 2011 and 2012. MSUs are restricted stock units that are earned three years from the date of grant, subject to the achievement of certain levels of total stockholder return over the performance period (the "Performance Period"). At the end of the Performance Period the actual number of MSUs earned is converted to shares of common stock based on the closing stock price on the vesting date. We do not pay current dividends on the shares of common stock underlying the MSUs; instead, the dividends are effectively "re-invested" as each of the executive officers is credited with an additional number of MSUs that have a fair market value (based on the closing stock price on the day the dividend is paid) equal to the amount of the dividend that would have been awarded for those shares.

Each executive officer was granted a target number of MSUs which is adjusted to reflect dividends paid during the Performance Period (the "Target Award"). The actual number of MSUs that was earned was equal to the Target Award multiplied by a conversion ratio. The conversion ratio was calculated by dividing (a) the 30-day average closing price of our common stock on the last day of the Performance Period plus reinvested dividends paid by (b) the 30-day average closing price of our common stock on the grant date. The Target Award was then multiplied by the conversion ratio. The maximum payout to an executive officer under an award was equal to 150% of the Target Award and no shares were earned if the conversion ratio was less than 50%. In 2015, our executive officers earned 150% of the Target Award based on our absolute total stockholder return over the Performance Period, which was the three years ended February 27, 2015.

4. Perquisites and other benefits

We have never had a pension plan and we have very limited perquisites. Our named executive officers, along with all of our employees on a non-discriminatory basis, receive: (i) health and dental insurance with the Company paying 100% of the premiums, (ii) a \$200,000 group term life insurance policy, and (iii) long-term and short-term disability coverage. We maintain a retirement savings plan for all of our employees under section 401(k) of the Code. All of our

employees, including our named executive officers, benefit from the same company matching formula. In addition, subject to certain limitations, Mr. Brugger, as a member of our Board of Directors, is entitled to annual reimbursement of up to \$10,000 of lodging, meals, parking and certain other expenses at all of our hotels and at other hotels.

Table of Contents

We also have a deferred compensation plan that enables our named executive officers, as well as other senior management employees, to defer up to 100% of their cash and equity compensation. The amounts deferred are not included in the participant's current taxable income and, therefore, are not currently deductible by us. With respect to deferred cash compensation, the participants select from a limited number of mutual funds which serve as measurement funds, and the deferred amounts are increased or decreased to correspond to the market value of the mutual fund investments. Because the measurement funds are publicly traded securities, we do not consider any of the earnings credited under the deferred compensation plan to be "above market." We do not provide any matching contribution to any participant, although the plan does permit such contributions.

Severance Agreements

We have entered into severance agreements with each of our named executive officers. In structuring these agreements, our Compensation Committee reviewed the severance agreements and policies as well as the employment contracts for the eight largest lodging self-managed REITs that were then currently SEC reporting companies. In addition, F.W. Cook reviewed the proposed components of the severance agreements on behalf of our Compensation Committee and provided advice on current market practices and emerging best practices regarding severance agreements. Our Compensation Committee also engaged its own legal counsel to represent the Company in the negotiation of the form of severance agreements with management.

The severance agreements provide each named executive officer with certain severance benefits if his employment ends under certain circumstances. We believe that the severance agreements will benefit us by helping to retain the executives and by allowing them to focus on their duties without the distraction of the concern for their personal situations in the event of a termination of their employment, especially in connection with a possible change in control of the Company. Further detail regarding the severance agreements is provided as part of the Senior Executive Compensation Summary below.

Discussion of Certain Compensation Policies

Stock Ownership Policy for Senior Executives

We believe that it is important to align the interests of senior management with those of our stockholders. As one concrete step to ensure such alignment, we have a stock ownership policy for each of our senior executive officers, which is similar to the stock ownership policy for our non-executive directors.

Table of Contents

Under our stock ownership policy, an ownership target is set for each of our named executive officers. The ownership target establishes, on an annual basis, the number of shares each covered executive should hold of Company stock. If an executive holds less than the ownership target, he or she is restricted from selling any Company stock until such time as he or she holds shares in excess of the ownership target, except as needed to pay personal taxes related to the vesting of equity compensation awards, and except for shares which the executive has purchased on the open market. We count towards this ownership target only those shares that are owned by an executive, including shares purchased or awarded under our equity compensation program to the extent that such shares are fully vested and otherwise continue to be owned by the executive. The ownership target for an executive is determined by calculating a multiple (4 in the case of the Chief Executive Officer and 3 in the case of all other executive officers) of that executive's base salary for the year and then dividing that result by the average closing price of the Company's common stock during the first 10 trading days of the same calendar year (\$8.96 per share for 2016). Messrs. Brugger, Mahoney and Tennis each hold shares in excess of their respective ownership target. Mr. Tanenbaum and Mr. Furbay, who have not sold any shares, each holds shares below the ownership target because he has not had sufficient time to accumulate shares equal to his respective ownership target.

Clawback Policy

Our Board of Directors has adopted a policy that, in the event of a restatement of our financial results, our Board of Directors will review all cash incentive plan compensation that was paid to the named executive officers on the basis of having met or exceeded specific performance targets for performance periods. If the bonuses paid pursuant to such cash incentive program compensation would have been lower had the bonuses been calculated based on such restated results, it is the policy of our Board of Directors to seek to recoup, for the benefit of the Company, the portion of the excess cash incentive program compensation that was received by any individual executive who engaged in fraud, intentional misconduct or illegal behavior in connection with the financial results that were restated. Notwithstanding anything stated or implied in the foregoing, our Board of Directors will, in its reasonable business judgment, decide whether to pursue such recoupment from an individual based on those factors that our Board of Directors believes to be reasonable.

Hedging, Short Sales, and Pledging Policies

Our board of directors has adopted policies pursuant to which members of the Board of Directors, each named executive officer and certain other executives are prohibited from selling any securities of the Company that are not owned at the time of the sale ("short sale"); purchasing or selling puts, calls or other derivative securities of the Company at any time; and pledging Company securities as collateral for a loan unless the Compensation Committee has given approval.

Tax Deductibility of Executive Compensation

Section 162(m) of the Code limits the deductibility on DiamondRock's tax return of compensation over \$1 million to certain of our corporate officers unless, in general, the compensation is paid pursuant to a plan which is performance-related, non-discretionary and has been approved by our stockholders. Because DiamondRock is a real estate investment trust that generally does not pay corporate income taxes, the loss of deductibility of compensation does not have a significant adverse impact on us. In 2015, \$5.0 million was not deductible under Section 162(m).

Changes to Our Program for 2016

Our Compensation Committee made the following changes to our program design and structure for 2016 to better support our strategic and financial objectives.

For the cash incentive compensation program for 2016, our Compensation Committee decided to eliminate the Hotel Market Share Performance component, which instead will be a component of the Performance Share Units, and to increase the AFFO Per Share component from 70% to 75% of the Cash Incentive Compensation Program.

For PSUs issued in 2016 and vesting in 2019, our Compensation Committee modified the criteria for determining the amount of PSUs earned at the end of the three-year performance period. The calculation of total stockholder return relative to the total stockholder return of a peer group over a three-year performance period will remain in effect for determining seventy-five percent (75%) of the number of PSUs earned in a performance period. The remaining twenty-five percent (25%) will be determined based on achieving improvement in the market share for each of the

Company's hotels over the three-year performance period. Our Compensation Committee made this change to incorporate an operational metric into the long-term incentive compensation program, and they determined that hotel market share improvement was more significant as an operational metric if measured over a multi-year period than over a single year.

Table of Contents

45

Table of Contents

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The undersigned members of the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors of DiamondRock Hospitality Company submit this report in connection with our review of the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section of the Proxy Statement for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015.

The Compensation Committee notes that we have oversight responsibilities only. We rely without independent verification on the information provided to us and on the representations made by management. Accordingly, our oversight does not provide an independent basis to determine whether the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section of the Proxy Statement is accurate and complete. We also note that management has the primary responsibility for the preparation of the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section of the Proxy Statement.

We, however, have reviewed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis and have discussed it with management; and in reliance on the reviews and discussions referred to above, we recommended to our Board of Directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section of this Proxy Statement be included in the Proxy Statement.

Submitted by the Compensation
Committee

Daniel J. Altobello, Chairman
Timothy R. Chi
W. Robert Grafton
Maureen L. McAvey
Gilbert T. Ray
Bruce D. Wardinski

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMPENSATION SUMMARY

Summary Compensation Table

The following table sets forth the information required by Item 402 of Regulation S-K promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission. The amounts shown represent the compensation paid to our named executive officers for the years shown as consideration for services rendered to the Company.

With respect to long-term equity incentive awards, the dollar amounts indicated in the table under "Share Awards" are the aggregate grant date fair value of awards computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. With respect to performance-based restricted share awards, the dollar value computed is based on the probable outcome of the performance conditions as of the grant date of the award.

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary (\$)	Stock Awards (\$) ⁽³⁾	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$)	All Other Compensation(\$) ⁽⁴⁾	Total (\$)
Mark W. Brugger President and Chief Executive Officer	2015	765,000	2,750,000	1,206,660	34,606	4,756,266
	2014	725,000	2,400,000	1,390,260	35,345	4,550,605
	2013	725,000	2,400,000	999,889	33,849	4,158,738
Sean M. Mahoney Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	2015	412,000	900,000	433,241	34,606	1,779,847
	2014	400,000	800,000	511,360	35,345	1,746,705
Robert D. Tanenbaum Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer ⁽¹⁾	2013	386,000	800,000	385,428	33,849	1,605,277
	2015	412,000	675,000	433,241	32,882	1,553,123
Troy G. Furbay Executive Vice President and Chief Investment Officer ⁽²⁾	2014	400,000	600,000	511,360	33,555	1,544,915
	2013	300,000	700,000	300,923	30,005	1,330,928
William J. Tennis Executive Vice President and General Counsel	2015	402,000	425,000	422,725	32,882	1,282,607
	2014	283,750	600,000	346,954	26,317	1,257,021
	2013	—	—	—	—	—
	2015	361,000	550,000	379,612	32,882	1,323,494
	2014	350,000	550,000	447,440	33,555	1,380,995
	2013	340,000	550,000	339,496	28,011	1,257,507

(1) Mr. Tanenbaum's employment with the Company commenced on April 1, 2013 and he was appointed Chief Operating Officer effective May 1, 2013.

(2) Mr. Furbay's employment with the Company commenced on April 9, 2014 and he was appointed Chief Investment Officer on May 6, 2014.

The amounts reported under this column include time-based restricted stock awards and performance-based stock awards (PSUs), which are described above under the heading "3. Long-Term Incentive Compensation." The assumptions used in determining the grant date fair values of the equity awards are set forth in Note 7 to our consolidated financial statements, which are included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended (3) December 31, 2015. The table above shows the grant date fair value of the PSUs based on probable outcome. The value of the PSUs is dependent on the Company's performance over a three-year period and there is no assurance that the awards will be earned. The maximum dollar value of the PSUs granted in 2015 are as follows: Mr. Brugger - \$2,062,500, Mr. Mahoney - \$675,000, Mr. Tanenbaum - \$506,250, Mr. Furbay - \$318,750 and Mr. Tennis - \$412,500.

(4) All other compensation represents the employer 401(k) match, health insurance premiums, life insurance premiums and reimbursement of certain compensatory payments to our executive officers and, for Mr. Brugger who is also a

director, reimbursement for lodging, meals and certain other expenses at hotels either owned by us or other hotels. In addition to the perquisites and other benefits set forth below, Messrs. Brugger and Tanenbaum received certain travel benefits in 2015 of less than \$10,000 each. The following chart sets forth the perquisites and all other benefits received by our executive officers during 2015. The components of all other compensation for 2013 and 2014 for each of the executives were reported in our 2014 and 2015 proxy statements, respectively.

Table of Contents

Name	Perquisites	Other Benefits		
	Hotel Reimbursement	401-K Employer Match	Medical and Dental Insurance Premiums	Life Insurance Premiums
Mark W. Brugger	\$ —	\$10,600	\$23,610	\$396
Sean M. Mahoney	n/a	\$10,600	\$23,610	\$396
Robert D. Tanenbaum	n/a	\$10,600	\$21,886	\$396
Troy G. Furbay	n/a	\$10,600	\$21,886	\$396
William J. Tennis	n/a	\$10,600	\$21,886	\$396

Grants of Plan-Based Awards

The following table sets forth information with respect to plan-based incentive awards granted in 2015 to our named executive officers.

Name	Grant Date	Estimated Future Payouts Under Incentive Plan Awards(1)			Estimated Future Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards(2)			All Other Stock Awards: Number of Shares of Stock or Units (#)(3)	Grant Date Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards (\$)(4)
		Threshold (\$)	Target (\$)	Maximum (\$)	Threshold (#)	Target (#)	Maximum (#)		
Mark W. Brugger		459,000	918,000	1,836,000	—	—	—	—	—
	2/27/2015	—	—	—	—	—	—	94,959	1,375,000
	2/27/2015	—	—	—	56,677	113,355	170,032	—	1,375,000
Sean M. Mahoney		164,800	329,600	659,200	—	—	—	—	—
	2/27/2015	—	—	—	—	—	—	31,077	450,000
	2/27/2015	—	—	—	18,549	37,098	55,647	—	450,000
Robert D. Tanenbaum		164,800	329,600	659,200	—	—	—	—	—
	2/27/2015	—	—	—	—	—	—	23,308	337,500
	2/27/2015	—	—	—	13,912	27,824	41,736	—	337,500
Troy G. Furbay		160,800	321,600	643,200	—	—	—	—	—
	2/27/2015	—	—	—	—	—	—	14,675	212,500
	2/27/2015	—	—	—	8,759	17,519	26,278	—	212,500
William J. Tennis		144,400	288,800	577,600	—	—	—	—	—
	2/27/2015	—	—	—	—	—	—	18,992	275,000
	2/27/2015	—	—	—	11,335	22,671	34,006	—	275,000

(1) At a compensation committee meeting held on February 17, 2016, we awarded each of our named executive officers, pursuant to the 2015 cash incentive compensation program, the following amounts: Mr. Brugger — \$1,206,660; Mr. Mahoney — \$433,241; Mr. Tanenbaum — \$433,241; Mr. Furbay — \$422,725 and Mr. Tennis — \$379,611.

These amounts are reported as “Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation” in the Summary Compensation Table.

- (2) Represents PSU awards. See “3. Long-Term Incentive Compensation” above for a description of the PSU awards.
- (3) Represents restricted stock awards, which vest in three annual installments beginning February 27, 2016.
- (4) Represents the grant date fair value of the PSU awards as determined in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718 using the Monte Carlo simulation method.

Table of Contents

Outstanding Equity Awards

The following table sets forth information with respect to outstanding equity awards held by the named executive officers as of December 31, 2015. The aggregate dollar values indicated in the table below for equity incentive plan awards are the market or payout values and not the ASC 718 values or the compensation expense recognized by the Company on its financial statements for fiscal year 2015 with respect to its long-term equity incentive plan awards.

Name	Option Awards			Stock Awards				Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market or Payout Value Of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested(2) (\$)
	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Exercisable (1)	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Unexercisable	Option Exercise Price (\$)	Option Expiration Date	Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested(4) (#)	Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested(2) (\$)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested(3) (#)	
Mark W. Brugger	—	—	—		203,373	1,962,549	294,427	2,841,221
Sean M. Mahoney	20,770	—	12.59	3/4/2018	67,215	648,625	97,429	940,190
Robert D. Tanenbaum	—	—	—		61,289	591,439	59,028	569,620
Troy G. Furbay	—	—	—		33,711	325,311	18,163	175,273
William J. & Tennis								