

Minutes of the Patriots Point Development Authority 520th Board Meeting, 9:30 A.M., Friday, July 16, 2021, Leadership Training Facility, Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum, Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Wayne Adams, *Vice Chairman*
Darwin Simpson
Mayor Will Haynie
Pat Waters
Zeb Williams

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Susan Marlowe

STAFF PRESENT: Rorie Cartier, *Executive Director*
Nick Magar, *Chief Financial Officer*
Sylvia Wasden, *Human Resources*
Keith Grybowski, *Education Director*
Chris Hauff, *Marketing*
Katisha Beanland, *Marketing*
Sis Reda, *Marketing*
Kristi Matie, *Marketing*

OTHERS PRESENT: William Craver, *Legal Counsel, by phone*
Brandon Dermody, *Southern Strategy*
Chauncey Clark, *Yorktown Foundation*
Mike Sudzina, *Yorktown Foundation*
Alston Middleton, *Patriots Point Foundation*
Maj. Gen. Charles Baldwin, *Patriots Point Foundation*

Mr. Wayne Adams called the meeting of the Board to order at 9:30 A.M.

Prior to the meeting, a copy of the proposed agenda was distributed via electronic mail to the Board members, media and designated guests.

Mr. Wayne Adams welcomed everyone to the Board meeting.

A. ADOPTION OF PROPOSED AGENDA

Mr. Wayne Adams asked for any changes to the proposed agenda. The agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

B. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Mr. Wayne Adams asked for any changes to the minutes presented. There being no proposed changes, the minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

C. PRESENTATION BY PATRIOTS POINT NAVAL & MARITIME FOUNDATION

Mr. Alston Middleton, president of the Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum Foundation gave a brief biography. He is a retired Marine. The proposal is for a veterans chapel to be built on Patriots Point property. Major General Baldwin read a white paper and gave his bio. The proposed name is the South Carolina Veterans Chapel, to be a stand-alone building, inter-faith. There was discussion as to who would run the chapel and retired chaplains or chaplains from CSU were offered. The Foundation has a fund of \$300,000 to start the process. Mr. Wayne Adams asked who would manage it, and Mr. Alston Middleton said that Patriots Point could have the discretion as to how it is managed, maybe a committee. The scheduling, maintenance and management of the chaplains was questioned. The size is to be “modest,” for about 150 people, about a quarter of an acre would be needed. Mr. Wayne Adams said that this would need more discussion, that a size would be needed as the Authority is running out of land.

D. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Education, Museum Services and Overnight Camping Committee- this committee did not meet.

2. Development Committee- This committee did not meet

3. Facilities and Operations Committee - Mr. Darwin Simpson reported that the committee did not meet, but gave an update. IT continues to enhance the platform and work on network security. Operations continues to work on the Flight Deck. The coffer dam will go in soon. Routine repairs and maintenance are ongoing.

4. Finance Committee - Mr. Darwin Simpson gave an update on finances. Mr. Simpson said that the museum “is doing well.” There are no financial statements as the auditors are due August 9 to close out financials. For this last month, \$550,000 was the profit. There is a near record attendance, about 41,000 a month. Attendance for July 1-15 is on track for July to be at 42,000. Employees are being added back. There is \$7.250 million cash on hand. This is not counting the 700,000 insurance agreement and there is no money coming from the camping department as it has yet to reopen. The Mayor said that according to the CVB, accommodations numbers are through the roof.

E. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Mr. Rorie Cartier reported the following:

- He is looking at the museum; how when the public looks at us; and can they find themselves in what they see?
- The museum needs to be relevant and connect to guests
- He is looking at guest continuity
- Concerns: staffing
- July 4th program went well from what he saw.
- He would like to “tinker” with the budget a little.
- He will focus on strategic planning, with an offsite session with the board first. He would like to bring in consultants, as the museum has been rudderless. The next 30-60 days.
- Visitor experience.
- Goals: expand audiences, inclusion, diversity, collaboration with other institutions, reexamine exhibits and upgrade, artifact rotation

- Studies by Eventbrite show that 74% of Americans are looking for experience over products.
- Expand the internship program, virtual teaching and volunteer program
- Will be looking at procedures and engagement
- Mike Hastings did a fantastic job in the interim, he really stepped up. Mr. Wayne Adams agreed that Mike Hastings did a fantastic job and will need to thank him next month, and kudos were given for the July 4th event.

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

G. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING CONTRACTUAL, LEGAL AND PERSONNEL MATTERS PERTAINING TO PATRIOTS POINT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.

Mr. Darwin Simpson made a motion for the Board to go into Executive Session to discuss contractual, legal and personnel matters pertaining to Patriots Point Development Authority, which motion was seconded by Mr. Pat Waters, and passed unanimously. The Board moved into Executive Session at 10:01 A.M.

The Board returned from Executive Session 10:42 A.M. No motions were made and no votes were taken in Executive Session.

Mr. Bobby Kotlowski addressed the board regarding the current capacity limit for events of 350. There are two upcoming events that would/could exceed the capacity: the Air Force Ball and a Young Life event. Mr. Kotlowski asked for an expansion to 500. The Navy graduations have started already, with 17 contracts through 2023. Mr. Rorie Cartier asked what the safety precautions were and Mr. Bobby Kotlowski said that all groups follow CDC guidelines and must have a COVID plan in place. There was discussion about raising the capacity across the board, but hesitation was expressed in order to see what the Delta strain of COVID does and to continue on a case-by-case basis for events. Mr. Wayne Adams entertained a motion to increase the capacity for the mentioned events, the Air Force Ball and Young Life. Mr. Darwin Simpson made the motion to increase the capacity for the two events to 500 and Mr. Zeb Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

H. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:48 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Steinberg, *Recording Secretary*

Michael Hastings, *Secretary*