

Minutes of the Patriots Point Development Authority 536th Board Meeting, 9:30 A.M., Friday, February 17, 2023, Leadership Training Facility, Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum, Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina.

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

STAFF PRESENT: Mac Burdette, *Interim Executive Director*  
Chris Coleman, *Director of Information Technology*  
Chris Hauff, *Marketing/Group Sales Director*  
Gina Zahran, *Visitor Services Director*  
Meredith Kablick, *Museum Director*  
Terry Ansley, *Property Manager*  
Colby Causey, *Curatorial & Collections*  
Mary Edwards, *Marketing*  
Melissa Buchanan, *Curatorial & Collections*  
Miranda Holton, *Curatorial & Collections*  
Richard Gregg, *Group Sales*  
Catie Turner, *Assistant to the Interim Executive Director*

OTHERS PRESENT: Allison Hunt, *USS Yorktown Foundation*  
Bill Craver, *legal counsel*  
Brandon Dermody, *The Southern Group*  
Cindy Lee, *USS Yorktown Association*

Vice Chairman Wayne Adams called the meeting of the Board to order at 9:36 A.M.

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

**A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Adams asked for any changes to the proposed agenda. The agenda was approved with no changes.

**B. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Mr. Adams asked for any changes to the minutes presented. The minutes were approved with no changes.

### **C. MUSEUM SERVICES AND EDUCATION REPORT**

Susan Marlowe reported that AVICOM, a 10-school contest that took place in the Flight Academy, was a success. Mrs. Marlowe also discussed the use of EIA and reserve funds to upgrade museum exhibits and combine with education department initiatives. Enhancements will include the Doolittle Room and the Marine Lab and are scheduled to be completed by June 2023.

Mrs. Marlowe reported the dates for the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations in April and a description of the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary exhibit entitled “All Who Served: The Uniforms of World War Two.”

### **D. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Finance Committee reporting. Darwin Simpson summarized the finance report (see attached).

### **E. DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Mr. Adams opened the floor to Chris Hauff to present on development committee updates. Mr. Hauff praised Mary Edwards for re-posting a Vietnam Experience ad in connection with the Superbowl and gaining viral attention for the museum on Facebook.

Mr. Hauff also reported an update on the progress and location of the new Patriots Point road signs. There will be two stages of signs due to the ongoing construction and changing scenery on the property.

### **F. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT**

Mac Burdette opened the floor to Gina Zahran to recognize Richard Gregg for 33 years of employment at the museum. Mr. Burdette called on Mike Hastings to recognize the following employees, each with over 25 years of employment at the museum: Diane Brown, Joe Campbell, and Edell Simmons.

Mr. Burdette opened the floor to Mr. Hauff to present on the Fighting Lady Turns 80 celebration on April 15.

Mr. Burdette reported that the Volunteer Bus Trip will resume this year. The group will consist of 45 volunteers and will be touring military museums and other related sights.

Mr. Burdette reported that Ms. Zahran had arranged for 200 Collegiate ROTC cadets to visit the USS Yorktown on February 18.

Mr. Burdette reported on the \$3 million Congressional Medal of Honor Museum remodel project. Staff from both the Congressional Medal of Honor Society and the PPDA have met to discuss the renovations.

Mr. Burdette presented the busy event schedule through March and April. These events include Congressional Medal of Honor Week, Vietnam Veteran's Day, the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and the Charleston Race Week.

Mr. Burdette opened the floor for Mr. Hastings to discuss the Environmental Assessment. This comprehensive survey, from the Office of Resiliency in Columbia, tests for hazardous materials onboard the USS Yorktown. The survey is due to be concluded on February 27.

Mr. Hastings also gave an update on the USS Clamagore. Once the submarine is in dry dock, two staff members will document the recycling procedure in Norfolk, VA.

Mr. Burdette asked Mr. Hastings to talk about artifact removal. The PPDA donated Dahlgren guns to the Charleston Battery to be put on display near their stadium entrance. Other artifacts went to the Veterans History Museum of NC and the Galveston Naval Museum in TX.

## **G. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Meredith Kablick introduced two new staff members: Miranda Helton, Registrar, and Colby Causey, Archivist.

## **H. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING CONTRACTUAL, LEGAL, PERSONNEL MATTERS PERTAINING TO PATRIOTS POINT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.**

Mr. Simpson moved to go into Executive session to discuss contractual, legal, and personnel matters at 10:20 A.M. Mayor Haynie seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Members returned from Executive session at 10:55 A.M. with no votes taken.

## **I. NEXT SCHEDULED PPDA BOARD MEETING, MARCH 17, 2023**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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Catie Turner, *Interim Recording Secretary*

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Mac Burdette, *Interim Executive Director*