

Minutes of the Patriots Point Development Authority 537th Board Meeting, 9:30 A.M., Friday, March 17, 2023, Leadership Training Facility, Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum, Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina.

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

STAFF PRESENT: Allison Hunt, *Executive Director*
Chris Hauff, *Chief of Staff/Deputy Director*
Mike Hastings, *Deputy Director*
Nick Magar, *Deputy Director*
Chris Coleman, *IT Director*
Gina Zahran, *Visitor Services Director*
Meredith Kablick, *Museum Director*
Terry Ansley, *Property Manager*
Hannah Giddens, *Education Coordinator*
Catie Turner, *Executive Assistant*

OTHERS PRESENT: Rebecca Achey, *legal counsel*, *via telephone*

Vice Chairman Wayne Adams called the meeting of the Board to order at 9:31 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. There being no changes proposed, the agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

B. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

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

C. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Museum, Education and Overnight Camping Committee – Mrs. Susan Marlowe relayed EIA updates from Mr. Keith Grybowski, stating that over 2,000 students have attended the Flight Academy, and over 6,000 students have participated in the experience via closed circuit. Mrs. Marlowe reported on the high success of the summer camp signup, all of the available Science and Flight Academy seats were filled within 3 hours of registration being open. Updates for the upcoming Teacher Conference were provided to the Board including the addition of a new aeronautical component. Committee members are working with TEQGames and EVI to continue software development with the Flight Academy. Mr. Al Edgington will be joining the Education staff as the EIA Coordinator.

Mrs. Marlowe discussed upcoming events including the 80th Anniversary Exhibit: All Who Served, which opens April 15th, with a preview reception on April 13th; the Citadel Art Management Program partnership; and renovations to the Dental Ward exhibit on Tour 1.

2. Finance Committee – Mr. Darwin Simpson provided a summary of the finance report (see attached) to the Board. Mr. Simpson stated that while paid attendance is down slightly from last year, camping revenue is up.

3. Operations and Facilities Committee – Mr. Simpson also reported for Operations. The food storage areas for Operation Overnight are being upgraded, the Apollo 8 capsule has been retrofitted, and continued restoration of the flight deck exhibit has been underway. The Environmental Assessment concluded on February 28th and the samples have been sent to a lab with results expected around September. AVERT Training for staff is ongoing for emergency preparedness. Finally, the Congressional Medal of Honor has been awarded \$3.5 million by the National Medal of Honor Leadership and Education Center to be used for renovations and upgrades. Mr. Mike Hastings gave an update on the USS Clamagore recycling project. The ship is awaiting dry dock and the estimated time to completion is to be announced.

D. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Allison Hunt presented Ms. Catie Turner as the new Executive Assistant.

Mrs. Hunt reported on the following:

- On March 14th-16th, Patriots Point had a bus trip for its volunteers. Activities included visiting the Battleship North Carolina and attending a graduation at Fort Bragg.
- The staff re-organization went into effect 2 weeks ago and has gone remarkably smoothly. The new structure in place is 3 divisions with 3 deputy directors. A more streamlined process is already being noticed.
- Mr. Nick Magar and Mr. Chris Coleman have begun a major technology upgrade to make the LTF's technology more reliable.

Mrs. Hunt opened the floor to Mr. Chris Hauff to update the Board on upcoming events. Mr. Hauff described a busy spring schedule of ship-wide events including the Medal of Honor Press Conference at 2:00 P.M. this afternoon, screening of the Devotion movie on March 18th, Medal of Honor Week March 20th-24th, Vietnam Veterans Day on March 29th, the "Fighting Lady Turns 80" on April 15th, and Charleston Race Week April 20th-23rd. Specifics for the Vietnam Veterans Day event include free admission for Vietnam Veterans and their families, the Charleston VA Hospital will be onsite to educate veterans of available services, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) will be onboard encouraging visitors to write letters to Vietnam Veterans, and Colonel Myron Harrington, USMC (retired) will be a guest speaker. Clover Health has partnered with the Patriots Point Foundation to provide \$10,000 for the Vietnam Veterans Day event.

Mr. Hauff also reported on the directional sign project. Some temporary signage will be relocated based on construction work. The welcome sign, which will read “Home of USS Yorktown,” is next to be completed, with the Coleman sign to follow.

Mrs. Hunt opened the floor to Mr. Mike Hastings to report on Charleston Race Week. Mr. Hauff and Mrs. Hunt gave details on logistics during that week and how the event will impact staff at Patriots Point. In light of how busy the Yorktown will be that week, Mr. Adams suggested that the next board meeting date be moved to April 14th.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

F. 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 10:15 A.M., which motion was seconded by Mayor Haynie, and passed unanimously.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 11:00 A.M. No motions were made and no votes taken in Executive Session.

G. NEXT PPDA BOARD MEETING *TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 14, 2023*

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

s/Catie Turner

c/Allison Hunt

Catie Turner, *Recording Secretary*

Allison Hunt, *Executive Director*

Attachments: Financials