

Minutes of the Patriots Point Development Authority 556th Board Meeting, 10:00 A.M., Friday, January 17th, 2025, Patriots Point Boardroom, Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum, Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Wayne Adams, *Acting Chair*
Susan Marlowe
Zeb Williams, *via virtual call*
Pat Waters
James Smith

STAFF PRESENT:

Allison Hunt, *Executive Director*
Chris Hauff, *Chief of Staff*
Nick Magar, *Administrative Services Division Director*
Chris Coleman, *IT Director*
Chris Jones, *Operations Director*
Gina Zahran, *Visitor Services Director*
Keith Grybowski, *Education Director*
Sam Elkin, *Marketing Director*
Lori Held, *Administrative Coordinator*
Miranda Helton, *Registrar*
Hannah Kratz, *Education*
John Willman, *Videographer*
Meredith Kablick, *Collections*
Lauren Austin, *Assistant Marketing Director*
Tony Ellis Jr., *Custodian*
Jarret Little, *Custodian*
Xaviera Meggett, *Custodian*
Lisa Venezia, *Custodian*
Danielle Ray, *Custodian*
Diane Brown, *Custodian*

OTHERS PRESENT:

Bill Craver, *Counsel*
Meaghan Silsby, *USS Yorktown Foundation*
Kayla Webber, *USS Yorktown Foundation*
Chauncey Clark, *USS Yorktown Foundation*
Doug Sharp, *USS Yorktown Foundation*
Megan Furnandes, *Post and Courier*
Cindy Lee, *USS Yorktown Association*

Acting Chair Wayne Adams called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

- A. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA.** The agenda was unanimously approved with no changes.
- B. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES.** The minutes were unanimously approved with no changes.
- C. **INTRODUCTIONS.** Allison Hunt highlighted the Custodial Team and asked Chris Jones, Operations Director to make the introductions. Mr. Jones introduced Diane Brown

(Manager), Tony Ellis, Jarret Little, Xaviera Meggett, Lisa Venezia, and Danielle Ray. Both Ms. Hunt and Mr. Jones gave high praise to the team.

D. COMMITTEE REPORTS.

1. MUSEUM AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT.

- i. Susan Marlowe reported on the Education departments 10 years of collaborative professional development program with the South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium.
- ii. The department is also working with the Charleston County School District in developing professional development programs for first year teachers.
- iii. She also gave updates to the Flight Academy.
- iv. The Curatorial Department has received new donations to include from the Museum of Modern Art, 150 Photos from the Edward Steichen Naval Photographic Unit Collection. The department is also conducting a museum wide assessment of tour routes and exhibits to determine necessary maintenance. They are also creating displays on the Laffey for the 80th anniversary of the kamikaze attacks on the Laffey.

2. DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT. Sam Elkins, Marketing Director, gave updates on events at PPDA in the months of December and January.

- i. Crawford Agency is releasing new ad campaigns in the Mrytle Beach area for Spring Break and will run through the remainder of the fiscal year.
- ii. The Congressional Medal of Honor Museum was nominated in the Best New Museum category by USA Today 10 Best Readers' Choice Awards and placed ninth.
- iii. Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum was nominated in the Best Museum Ship category. The winner of this category will be announced Wednesday, February 19th.
- iv. In February of 2024, a Czech Republic news crew produced a story on Patriots Point. The special officially aired in December, in the Czech Republic.

E. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT.

- 1. Ms. Hunt recognized a member of the PPDA family who recently passed away. Tim Privette was part of the Curatorial Department and worked in the carpenter shop.

2. The preconstruction meeting for the oil remediation was held on January 16th. They are scheduled to start work February 10th and the project is expected to take a year. In preparation for the remediation, PPDA employees moved the CH 46 Helicopter and the Deuce and a Half Army truck to make room for the FRAC tanks for the oil remediation. The Yorktown Foundation will pay for restoration of the helicopter.
3. The PPDA Training Portal is now available to all employees. Ms. Hunt complemented Chris Coleman for an outstanding job. She also thanked Chris Hauff, Nick Magar, David Coates and Chris Jones for all their hard work. Ms. Hunt reported that Keith Grybowski will be moving into the role of the Flight Academy Director until he retires later this year.

F. USS YORKTOWN FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT AND UPDATE.

1. Meahan Silsby presented to the board the Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report for the Yorktown Foundation.
2. She reported on the \$316,770 of monetary allocations to support and enhance programs at Patriots Point.
3. The Foundation has also raised the final amount needed to restore the twelve aircraft on the flight deck of the Yorktown with 9 out of the 12 being fully restored.
4. Scholarships awarded enabled 667 students to participate in educational programs.
5. She thanked PPDA general counsel Bill Craver for the \$104,000 endowment he established and has funded over a number of years.

G. PUBLIC COMMENTS. There were no public comments.

H. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING EVENT AND PROPERTY CONTRACTUAL MATTERS.

1. James Smith moved to enter Executive Session. Pat Waters seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
2. The Board returned from Executive Session at 10:50 P.M. No votes were taken in Executive Session.

I. OTHER BUSINESS.

1. Mr. Smith made a motion that the board pass a resolution to approve the extended agreement to amend and restate the lease agreement and to consent to Battery Soccer license Agreement for one year with the College of Charleston and to

approve the temporary license agreement with HCFC, LLC. Mr. Waters seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2. Mr. Adams asked for a motion that the board pass a resolution to approve the negotiation of a temporary 364-day license for the ATM between Pinnacle Financial Partners, the successor to the Southcoast Community Bank. Mr. Smith made the motion and Mr. Waters seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.
3. Mr. Adams asked for a motion to approve the Patriots Point Staff, negotiating with the Wrestling Group to rent the ship for one day in November. Mr. Smith made the motion and Mr. Waters seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

J. NEXT TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED PPDA BOARD MEETING, FEBRUARY 21, 2025.

K. ADJOURNMENT. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:54 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

s/Lori Held

Lori Held, *Recording Secretary*

c/Allison Hunt

Allison Hunt, *Board Secretary and Executive Director*