

Minutes of the Patriots Point Development Authority 558th Board Meeting, 10:00 A.M., Tuesday, March 18th, 2025, Patriots Point Boardroom, Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum, Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

Allison Hunt, *Executive Director*
Chris Hauff, *Chief of Staff*
Nick Magar, *Administrative Services Division Director*
Chris Jones, *Operations Director*
Keith Grybowski, *Education Director*
Sam Elkin, *Marketing Director*
Terry Ansley, *Property Management Director*
Lori Held, *Administrative Coordinator*

OTHERS PRESENT:

Bill Craver, *Counsel*
Meaghan Silsby, *USS Yorktown Foundation*
Kayla Webber, *USS Yorktown Foundation*
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. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT.** Allison Hunt reviewed upcoming events:
 - 1. **Tuesday, March 25, 2025 – Medal of Honor Day**, which will run from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M., and will be presented in partnership with the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. Highlights of the event include: Mr. Leroy Petry, a Medal of Honor recipient, who will be present and will be meeting with student groups; Medal of Honor artifacts will be on display; and, a special self-guided Medal of Honor tour allowing visitors to explore how planes and military equipment work.
 - 2. **Friday, March 28, 2025 – wrap up of March's Membership Month.** Patriots Point will host a Yorktown Movie and Game Night event with games, live music, and a screening of Captain Marvel. The event is open to the public with a discount for members.

3. **Saturday, March 29, 2025 – Vietnam Veteran’s Day.** Patriots Point will have its annual Vietnam Veteran’s Day Memorial Ceremony beginning at 11:00 A.M. Specifics for the Vietnam Veteran’s Day event include:
- i. Mr. John Smock discussing Brown Water Navy operations and medics in Vietnam.
 - ii. A new display in the Quonset Hut on medics in Vietnam.
 - iii. The Department of Defense lapel pinning for Vietnam War Veterans as a token of recognition.
 - iv. In the afternoon, Patriots Point will roll out a new initiative that is a partnership with the University of South Carolina Film Institute and USC Libraries. The Film Institute will screen footage from Vietnam in the theater from 1:00 P.M to 5:00 P.M., and will include never before seen footage and news reels footage. The USC Libraries will bring artifacts for display from the Vietnam War.
 - v. Patriots Point will also be rolling out a new digital collection from the Vietnam War.
4. **Anniversary of Okinawa** – Specifics for the 3 days of events include:
- i. **Saturday, April 12, 2025:**
 - 1. Second Saturday Activities that we regularly have with our living history actors and our “Ask Me About History” carts.
 - 2. Tin Can Sailors – The USS Laffey will have as many as 60 Tin Can Sailors aboard hosting their regular Bull session.
 - ii. **Tuesday, April 15, 2025:**
 - 1. Day of Life aboard the USS Laffey, which will have our veteran volunteers and Tin Can Sailors stationed throughout the USS Laffey discussing the different jobs they did on the ship.
 - 2. Mr. Sam Singewald, whose great-grandfather served on the USS Laffey, will display an intricate Lego recreation of the USS Laffey. Patriots Point will be hosting a USS Laffey Lego building contest aboard the Yorktown. Over 50 gallons of Legos have been donated by Bricks and Minifigs, a local toy store. Individuals interested in participating in the Lego building contest can either build their models during their visit while on the Yorktown, or

participants can bring models they built at home to the Yorktown for the contest.

iii. Wednesday, April 16, 2025:

1. At 10:00 A.M. a memorial ceremony recognizing the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Okinawa kamikaze attacks will take place.
 2. In the afternoon, Mr. James Smith will present a tour with a timeline of the attack.
 3. Patriots Point's model builder is building a replica of the USS Laffey as it was following the attacks.
5. Race Week begins April the 20th.
6. Mayor Haynie added that Mt. Pleasant will also be looking forward to the upcoming Cooper River Bridge Run and the Blessing of the Fleet.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS. There were no public comments.

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

1. Mayor Haynie moved to enter Executive Session. Mr. James Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The Board went into executive session at 10:10 AM.
2. The Board returned from Executive Session at 11:15 A.M. No votes were taken in Executive Session.

F. OTHER BUSINESS.

1. Mr. Smith presented a resolution to the Board for consideration regarding Patriots Point supporting the naming of a new United States Navy destroyer "USS Laffey" in honor of Medal of Honor recipient Mr. Bartlett Laffey. Mr. David Coates took the initiative and wrote the first letter for this proposal. Mr. Britt Slabinski will be making the case to the Secretary of the Navy. Mr. Smith believes it would reflect well on Patriots Point to have a new USS Laffey in service continuing Mr. Bartlett Laffey's legacy. Mayor Haynie made the motion to approve the resolution, Mr. Waters seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

G. NEXT SCHEDULED PPDA BOARD MEETING, APRIL 18, 2025.

H. ADJOURNMENT. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:18 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

s/*Lori Held*

Lori Held, *Recording Secretary*

c/*Allison Hunt*

Allison Hunt, *Board Secretary and
Executive Director*