

Minutes of the Patriots Point Development Authority 561st Board Meeting, 10:00 A.M., Friday, June 20th, 2025, Patriots Point Boardroom, Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum, Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

Allison Hunt, *Executive Director*
Chris Hauff, *Chief of Staff*
Nick Magar, *Chief Financial Officer*
Sam Elkin, *Marketing Director*
Terry Ansley, *Property Management Director*
Kenny Brinckman, *Education and Public Programs Director*
Lori Held, *Administrative Coordinator*
Lauren Austin, *Assistant Marketing Director*
Meredith Kablick, *Collections*
Alexis Mizell, *Strategic Communications Coordinator*

OTHERS PRESENT:

Bill Craver, *Counsel*
Brandon Dermody, *The Southern Group*
Chauncey Clark, *USS Yorktown Foundation*
Megan Fernandes, *Post and Courier*

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

- A. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA.** Mr. Adams requested a motion to add a “Finance Committee Report” to the agenda following the “Introductions.” Mr. Pat Waters made the motion, Mr. David Riggins seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.
- B. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES.** The minutes were unanimously approved with no changes.
- C. **INTRODUCTIONS.** Ms. Sam Elkin introduced Ms. Alexis Mizell, Patriots Point’s new Strategic Communications Coordinator.
- D. **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT and EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT.**
Ms. Allison Hunt gave updates on the FY 2025-2026 Budget. Given economic uncertainty and currently sluggish visitor trends—with indications that these softened visitor numbers will continue—the FY 2025-2026 Budget was conservatively developed and built with baseline numbers to ensure Patriots Point’s costs are covered to guard against a potential shortfall. While these projections are baseline to protect Patriots Point’s financial stability, this does not represent the pace Patriots Point is setting for the upcoming year. Patriots Point continues to operate with a growth mindset and aims to increase revenue across the board. For example, Patriots Point has set a 6% goal for paid admissions growth and is adding new programs and initiatives. Focusing on the FY 2025-2026 Budget, the capital expenditures to be funded by the Reserve total \$6.145M. Of that amount, \$5.25M are related to remediations that were approved in the FY 2024-2025

Budget, \$1M is allocated for pier repairs, \$50K is earmarked for the Laffey dry dock deposit, \$30K will be going toward upkeep and maintenance of the Cold War Submarine Memorial, and \$30K is appropriated for the new Patriots Point Road sign on Coleman Boulevard.

Mr. Adams asked the board if it was prepared to vote on the FY 2025-2026 Budget. Mr. Pat Waters moved to approve the FY 2025-2026 Budget as presented by the Finance Committee. Mr. David Riggins seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS.

There were no public comments.

F. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING CONTRACTUAL MATTERS RELATED TO CHARLESTON HARBOR RESORT AND MARINA, THE NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP, AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES.

Mr. Waters moved to enter Executive Session. Mr. Riggins seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The board went into executive session at 10:07 A.M.

The board returned from Executive Session at 11:25 P.M. No votes were taken in Executive Session.

G. OTHER BUSINESS.

Mr. Riggins offered a motion by the Finance Committee for approval of an advance payment on the Laffey loan of \$968,353.15 prior to June 30th. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Adams asked for a motion to increase the limit on campers for Operation Overnight to 400, which was set at 300 following COVID. Mayor Haynie asked whether the increase would comply with capacity regulations, and Mr. Adams responded that it would, and that prior to COVID Operation Overnight was approved to have 600+ campers. Ms. Susan Marlowe made the motion, Mr. Riggins seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

H. NEXT SCHEDULED PPDA BOARD MEETING, JULY 18th, 2025.

I. ADJOURNMENT.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:28 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

s/Lori Held

Lori Held, *Recording Secretary*

c/ Allison Hunt

Allison Hunt, *Board Secretary and Executive Director*