

LOUISIANA NAVAL WAR MEMORIAL COMMISSION

Minutes of Commission Meeting

December 12, 2019

4:00 p.m.

Members present:

Richard Brandt

Franklin Foil

Robert Hawthorne

Joe Jenkins

Kyle Kennedy

C.J. Krueger (by telephone)

Henson Moore

Larry Muenzler

Karen St. Cyr

Hans Sternberg

Robert Schilling

Leonard Sedlin

Julie Baxter Payer, Secretary of

Veterans Affairs

John Wells

Roderick Wells

Members absent:

Michael Vicari

Others present:

Rosehn Gipe

Tim NesSmith

Todd Maulding

Andrew Seba

James Roberts

Pat Schilling

Lt. Col. Tom Schilling

Jacob Waguespack

Lloyd Johnson

Call to order: At 4:00 o'clock p.m. the meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Henson Moore, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Jenkins.

Agenda: The Chairman announced that a quorum was present and asked if there were any additions or changes to the agenda. There were none so he proceeded to the business of the Commission.

Minutes. The minutes of the last meeting of the Commission as previously circulated were approved without objection.

Treasurer's Report. Commissioner Muenzler called attention to the financial statements sent to each Commissioner earlier in the week and which were also included in each Commissioner's packet. He asked if there were any questions. Hearing none he made a few comments:

- He explained that the indebtedness to the Office of Risk Management is one-half of its previous balance thanks to a special arrangement with the Division of Administration.
- He introduced Jacob Waguespack and Lloyd Johnson of Faulk & Winkler, the CPA firm which did our last audit.

- Thanks to our current staff, we are now getting financial statements in a regular and timely manner. We are also getting any supplemental financial information requested in a prompt and efficient manner.

Finance Committee Report. Commissioner Muenzler called attention to the proposed budget for 2020 a copy of which was previously sent to each commissioner and also included in each packet. He explained:

- The staff has thoroughly reviewed it and made minor changes;
- The Finance Committee has reviewed it line by line and recommends it;
- It is consistent with and very close to the 2020 in the five-year plan submitted to the Baton Rouge Area Foundation.

On behalf of the Finance Committee Commissioner Muenzler moved that the proposed budget for 2020 be approved. The motion was seconded by Commissioner John Wells. The Executive Director, Rosehn Gipe, explained differences from the 2020 budget submitted with the five-year plan. Questions by Commissioners Sternberg, Sedlin, and Jenkins were answered. After the discussion was completed, the Commission unanimously approved the proposed budget for 2020 by voice vote.

Nominating Committee Report. Commissioner Jenkins explained that we have two vacancies and four terms which will soon expire (Commissioners Brandt, Hawthorne, Sedlin, and St. Cyr). He asked that those whose terms are expiring let him know if they wish to continue. He continues to try to make contact with the person in the Governor's office who handles boards and commissions but with no success. Several commissioners offered to help. Commissioner John Wells said he has two people he would like to submit. Commissioner Muenzler said he had one name, Cliff Grout. Commissioner Jenkins asked that those names be submitted to him in writing. The Chairman asked Commissioner Jenkins to continue to serve as chair of the Nominating Committee.

Ship Status Report. Ship Superintendent, Tim NesSmith, made a presentation with graphics to accompany his written report which is in the packet. Highlights included:

- Two Eagle Scout projects:
 - Painted five-inch projectiles;
 - Chiseled out concrete on Galley deck;
- Repairing stanchions and wasted metal;
- We have received three donations for significant ship repairs:
 - James Landry – 40mm ammo racks;
 - Royce Walker – lathe gear repairs;
 - Henson Moore – HVAC in CPO's mess (to be done).
- Story about manufacture of Torpedo Blast Shield, how it came about, and the monetary and in-kind donations which made it possible;
- Field days and routine maintenance;
- Restoration of pirate icon by Molly Mankins, including a spare.

Executive Director's Report. Rosehn Gipe summarized her activities since coming onboard October 1. She projected on the screen the new logo which the staff

recommends. The Commission unanimously approved the new logo. The commissioners' packets for this meeting include an outline of contacts, projects, activities, and items of interest. She made additional comments on the following:

- Need Wi-Fi between ship and museum building to improve communications'
- Need a hull survey in order to develop a plan for critical ship maintenance. Contacts have been made and Tom Verret has indicated an interest in funding a hull survey. The whole ship needs to be repainted, including the hull. Tim NesSmith added that the "touch-points" need special attention and the "cradle-pads" should be replaced. He responded to a question by Commissioner Muenzler that divers have been considered and are a possibility. Commissioner Kennedy stated that to his knowledge, a hull survey has never been done. Commissioner John Wells asked whether "drydocking" may be necessary. Rosehn Gipe responded that may well be the case. She has experience with that at the USS Slater. The cost for the Slater was approximately \$1,500,000. Downtime and loss of revenues are unpredictable and a significant concern. When asked about the cost of a hull survey, the Executive Director stated that she would use her best efforts to have that information by the end of January.
- Bedding on the ship needs to be replaced in certain areas and upgraded in other areas. Commissioner Sternberg urged that bedding when campers sleep be replaced.
- The galley needs to be reopened and work to do that is a priority. Commissioner John Wells suggested that the federal agency which handles property surplus might be a source. The Executive Director said that she was familiar with that agency.
- Several pumps need to be refurbished and all padlocks should be replaced.
- Funds for marketing in the budget include a "building wrap" for one window facing Government Street.
- She highlighted some of the free publicity we have received. She also reminded the commissioners of the Snoopy exhibit.
- To free up space she has asked the organization in charge of the defunct Louisiana Maritime Museum to move to a new location their collection which we have stored for many years. She has given them a deadline and hopes they will comply. In response to questions, she said that the USS New Orleans model belongs to the Navy but that the riverboat wheel belongs to the Louisiana Maritime Museum.
- She is trying to salvage something out of the "virtual reality" arrangement. She is working on a new company concerning interactive exhibits.
- She is confident that the military reunion market is not dead.
- She is working with the local film commission on an event in Baton Rouge in connection with the Greyhound movie.
- She is in contact with our foundation to resurrect The Compass.
- The date for Roaring on the River has been set, Saturday, April 4, 2020, at the museum. We are depending on 100% participation from the commissioners.

Theatre/Multi-Purpose Room Renovation Project. Commissioner Sedlin pointed to his report in the packet and mentioned the following:

- This project has been three years in the making.
- A local family will fund in the amount of \$256,700 through our foundation and will have naming rights.
- We are talking with Channel Two to do our welcoming film as a public service to us.
- Plus One is the architect and contractor.
- Rokit Science is involved with graphics.
- At the request of the donor, the goal is to have a conference space superior to any of that size in the area with upgraded acoustical qualities, electronics, wall coverings, etc.

Commissioner Sternberg added that we should do all we can to make sure that the donor gets enough credit.

Commissioner Sedlin said that our next big renovation project will be to make the second-floor exhibit space a first-class space for exhibits, including traveling exhibits.

The Chairman stated that we should look at all of our facilities – ship, building, grounds – from our customers’ point of view. We want them to have such a pleasant experience that they will want to return.

Museum HVAC System. Tim NesSmith reported that we have a new contact at the State facilities office. No contract has been signed for the work needed to complete the upgrade, but he is following up. Chairman Moore added that the State acknowledges responsibility for major repairs to the building. He also mentioned that he and Rosehn will meet with Mark Moses soon. He is head of the office responsible for all State buildings.

Old Business. No one offered any new business.

New Business. No new business was offered

Election of Officers. The Chairman called on Commissioner Jenkins who stated that the Nominating Committee’s recommendations for 2020 are set forth in their report in the packet as follows:

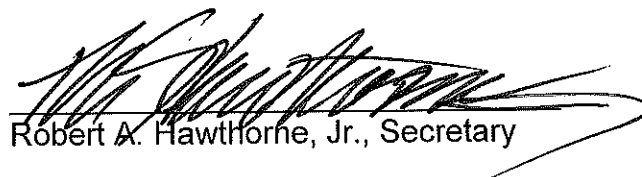
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|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| • Chairman | Robert Hawthorne |
| • Vice Chairman | Hans Sternberg |
| • Secretary | Roderick Wells |
| • Treasurer | Larry Muenzler |
| • Executive Committee Member at Large | Dr. Kyle Kennedy |

He stated that each of these commissioners has agreed to serve, but that we should open the floor for additional nominations. The Chairman asked if there were additional nominations. There were none. Commissioner John Wells moved that they be elected by acclamation. Commissioner Sedlin seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Public comments. The Chairman asked if any present who were not commissioners wished to speak. No one responded.

Special presentation. Commissioner Hawthorne presented to Chairman Moore as a memento of his chairmanship for four years, a decorative marlinspike (fid) hand-crafted by Jesse Scott Eaves, formerly a boatswain's mate in the US Navy from 1959 to 1962 and early volunteer at the USS Kidd. He was the Maintenance Supervisor from 1991 to 1997 and served as Ship Superintendent/Maintenance Supervisor from 1998 to 2003.

Adjournment. No one offered further comments so the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.



Robert A. Hawthorne, Jr., Secretary