

Louisiana Naval War Memorial Commission
Minutes of Commission Meeting
June 25, 2020
4:00 p.m.

Members present:

Robert Hawthorne
Roderick Wells
Henson Moore
John Wells
Leonard Sedlin
H. Davis Cole
Joe Jenkins
Richard Brandt
Robert Schilling
John Pugh

Members absent:

Kyle Kennedy
Karen St. Cyr
Michael Vicari
C. J. Krueger
Larry Muenzler
Jacob Perry
Joey Strickland

Others present:

Rosehn Gipe
Todd Maulding
Tim NesSmith

Call to order: At 4:05 p.m. the meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Robert Hawthorne, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance lead by Joe Jenkins.

Agenda: Chairman asked if there were any additions to the agenda. There were none.

Determination of a Quorum: Ten Commission members were present therefore there was a quorum.

Introduction of new members: There were two new commissioners: H. Davis Cole and John Pugh. They each said a few words about themselves and were welcomed present, to the Commissioners.

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were emailed to Commissioners and the Chairman asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes. There were none. On a motion by Commissioner Joe Jenkins and a second by Commissioner Richard Brandt, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's report: The Chairman told the Commissioners the treasurer, Commissioner Muenzler, was recuperating from knee surgery and could not attend the meeting. Business Manager Todd Maulding would present in the treasurer's absence. Each Commissioner received a budget versus actual report to review. Manager Maulding stated the projection for the year based on traditional revenue sources shows a \$234,000 shortfall. However, a \$75,000 Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)

Grant along with three other grants have kept the museum afloat. COVID-19 caused the museum and KIDD to close during the most productive time for over nights stays and tours. The museum and KIDD have \$100,000 on hand at this time. Our total loss by year's end will be \$270,000 however, with the aid of the grants our year end losses will be \$24,000. Commissioners agreed that amount was not bad considering the loss of revenue during the shelter in place months. The report was accepted with a motion by Commissioner John Wells and seconded by Commissioner Joe Jenkins.

Committee reports:

Chairman Hawthorne explained we had no Vice Chairman since Hans Sternberg resigned in January. We needed a nominee for that position. Commissioner Henson Moore nominated Joe Jenkins and Commissioner Richard Brandt seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman Hawthorne asked Commissioner John Wells to present the Hull Restoration Task Force report. Ted Verrett of Verret Shipyards told the committee the KIDD was not in as bad shape as first thought after his inspection. The KIDD original hull thickness was designed at 3/8". In some places the thickness was less than that. We also have two leaks that Mr. Verret stated could be patched by his company at no cost to the Commission. The committee discussed the ship's lack of Cathodic Protection with Mr. Verret who suggested an alternative repair using Aluminium Anodes. The beauty of Aluminium Anodes is they can be stationed inside the ship's hull. Mr. Verret's company can supply the material and install them as well. He estimated, based on the Kidd's length, we would need about eighty Anodes. The work would again be at no cost to the Commission. These two repairs are considered short term fixes and would give the Commission about five years to put together a comprehensive Dry Dock plan and fund raising options to pay for it. The Executive Director and staff believe a complete work package could be completed in eighteen months following the short term repairs. The Restoration Task Force was truly appreciative to Mr. Verret for his generosity to the KIDD.

Staff report:

Tim NesSmith provided an eight-page detailed account of activities conducted at the museum and onboard the KIDD. It covers the period from January 2020 to June 2020. An enormous amount of activity was covered by the staff without Tim for the month of April due to his self-isolation after his spouse tested positive for COVID-19. Both were cleared after 28 days. Well done Tim and we are thankful you and your wife are safe and well.

The report included an article about a KIDD volunteer named Brandi Hansen who conducts free classes to the general public to build connections between veterans and civilians. This is a very productive program for the KIDD. Thank you, Brandi, for all you do for the KIDD.

Finally, on a sad note, former Commission Chairman W. Bruce King has passed away at age 81. Bruce was a true professional who really loved the Navy and worked to make the KIDD better throughout his volunteer career.

The Executive Director's report began with Commissioners receiving a copy of the 2019 audit by Faulk & Winkler. The report was positive with one minor issue cited regarding having three money handlers. The issue has already been corrected.

Highlights of the report were as follows: The Snoopy and the Red Baron exhibit closed early in February. The Executive Director and Tim NesSmith attended a Military Heritage Trail meeting in late February. A group of Louisiana museums are attempting to develop a "trail" for visitors. Construction began on the theater renovation and continued through the COVID-19 stay at home period. The Louisiana Maritime Museum collection in storage here will be relocated elsewhere. The

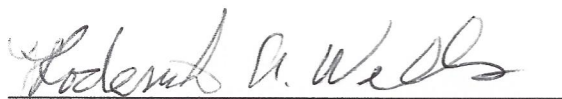
KIDD museum has given the Louisiana Maritime Museum until August 15 to remove their collection. The KIDD museum has housed that collection for 32 years. The movie "Greyhound" filmed in Baton Rouge and on the USS KIDD is set to premiere July 10. The film rights were owned by Sony Pictures however, they were sold to Apple TV+. Our relationship was with Sony and they have passed that information to Apple TV+. Hopefully our new relationship will be as fruitful as the original.

New Business:

The Chairman reminded Commissioners of the requirement to complete the State Ethics Training video each year, print out the certificate and send a copy to the Executive Director. Also, each Commissioner must complete a Tier 2.1 Financial Disclosure Report which is due each year by May 15. The office does not need a copy of that report.

The Commission's future meetings are schedule as follows: September 17, 2020 Commission; November 5, 2020 Executive Committee; December 3, 2020 Commission.

Adjournment: The Chairman asked if anyone had further business for the Commission. There was none so he adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.



Roderick Wells, Secretary