

Louisiana Naval War Memorial Commission
Executive Committee Meeting
April 28th, 2022, 3:00pm
Manship Deck at the USS KIDD Museum

Executive Committee Members Present:

Robert “Bob” Hawthorne (Chairman)
John F. Pugh, Jr. (Vice Chairman)
Aaron Bayham (Secretary)
Larry A. Muenzler (Treasurer)
Joe Jenkins (Past Chairman)
H. Davis Cole (At Large)

Others Present:

Rosehn Gipe (Executive Director, USS KIDD)
Todd Maulding (Business Manager, USS KIDD)

Call to Order: Chairman Robert Hawthorne called the Executive Committee Meeting to order at 3:00pm.

Financials: KIDD Business Manager Todd Maulding presented the Committee with a financial summary for the USS KIDD operation. Revenues are up significantly over budget due to pent-up demand and Disney’s “National Treasure” production rentals, and expenses are trending down from budget.

Energy Efficiency Survey: Louisiana State University Industrial Assessment Center recently completed an assessment of the utility and HVAC systems at the museum and proposed several additional changes in their Assessment Report dated February 6th, 2022, which will increase energy efficiency, including removing old inefficient VAV boxes, increasing the chilled water temperature setpoint on the chiller, and replacing incandescent and fluorescent lighting with LED’s.

John Pugh made a motion to allow Management to implement all recommendations of the energy efficiency summary. The motion was seconded by H. Davis Cole and passed without objection.

Hull Restoration: The Chairman informed the Committee that the House Ways & Means Committee of the Louisiana Legislature recently heard the \$3.6 million Capital Outlay Request for the KIDD Hull Restoration. The Committee did not reject the request, but rather reduced the priority of the request from a Priority 2 status to Priority 3. Senator Franklin Foil and Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser’s office have stated that they intend to get at least the planning portion of the Outlay Request re-prioritized in the Senate.

Accumulated Leave for employee Tim Nessmith: Employee Tim Nessmith, whose employment pre-dates the current “use-it-or-lose-it” benefit policy for paid time off, has over many years accumulated 300 hours of leave, which the Executive Director stated is the maximum accumulated leave allowed under state law. As the KIDD is currently in a stable financial position, the Chairman offered that now may be an appropriate time to clear the liability of the accumulated leave from the KIDD. After inquiry from the commission, the Executive Director made it clear the going forward Mr. Nessmith’s leave will be accumulated under the same “use-it-or-lose-it” policy that all other employees are subject to.

Commissioner Larry Muenzler made a motion to approve the payment of all accumulated leave to Mr. Nessmith by Management (which amounts to approximately \$8,000.00). Commissioner Joe Jenkins seconded the motion, and the motion passed without objection.

Other New Business: John Pugh asked the Committee to reach out to any legislators they know who could be helpful in finding funds for the hull restoration project.

The Committee and the Executive Director discussed the recent issue with “The Sullivans” destroyer ship in Buffalo, NY partially sinking at the dock. The Executive Director mentioned the “Save America’s Treasures” Federal fund that The Sullivans had taken advantage of (but had not been able to complete the repairs). The same fund may be useful to the KIDD when it comes to funding and matching funds for the Hull Restoration Project.

The Executive Director provided the Committee with information regarding revenues and costs of sale for overnight bookings, river cruises, and the library card program.

Adjournment: The Chairman asked the Committee if there were any other questions or concerns the Committee wished to address. Seeing none, Commissioner Joe Jenkins made a motion to adjourn. With no objection, the motion was adjourned at 3:37pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Aaron Bayham, Secretary