

# LOUISIANA NAVAL WAR MEMORIAL COMMISSION

Minutes of Commission Meeting

September 22, 2016

4:00 p.m.

## Members present:

- Richard Brandt
- Robert Hawthorne
- Joe Jenkins
- Kyle Kennedy
- Henson Moore
- Leonard Sedlin
- Karen St. Cyr
- Hans Sternberg

## Members absent:

- Rudolph Bourg
- Franklin Foil
- Bobbie Pugh
- Homer Rodgers, Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs

## Others present:

- Pearce Cinman

Call to order: At 4:15 o'clock p.m. the meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Henson Moore, who asked Commissioner Jenkins to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. He announced that a quorum was present.

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

Minutes. The Chairman asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the last meeting. There were none so they were approved by consent.

Strategic Plan. Pearce Cinman reported that approximately 25 consultants had visited the building and were in the process of completing their reports. However, most of them were affected by the unprecedented flooding in the Baton Rouge area with the consequence that their reports have been delayed. He hopes to have a report for the Commission by November or December. The Commissioners asked questions about and discussed focus, parking, and renovations to the present museum building. The Chairman thanked Pearce for

the work that he and the other consultants are doing on a volunteer basis on behalf of the Kidd. He also passed on to Pearce for his evaluation a suggestion for graphics on the building featuring activities offered by the Museum.

Director Search Committee: Commissioner Hawthorne reported that the committee held its first meeting on June 2, 2016. It met again on September 2 and interviewed David Beard, one of the applicants. At its September 8 meeting the Executive Committee authorized negotiations with David Beard concerning the Executive Director position. The handout summarizes a proposal as well as a summary of David Beard's career and the 9 references checked. After describing deliberations of the search committee and commenting on conversations with various persons who had worked for him or with him or under him as well as with community leaders who knew him, Commissioner Hawthorne moved that the Commission authorize the Chairman to employ David Beard as Executive Director at an annual salary of \$88,180 plus a retirement savings match not to exceed 5% of his salary and a moving allowance not to exceed \$5,000. It should be made clear to him that the Commission does not provide health insurance benefits. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brandt and unanimously adopted.

Financial report. The Chairman called attention to the financial statements for June, July and August. He reported that the Museum was closed for 36 days as a result of the street closure necessitated by using the River Center as shelter for evacuees from the recent flooding. Other than a couple of tours, a few overnights and one building rental, the Commission had no income during that time. He described spending restrictions in place to minimize cash flow concerns. A supplemental grant request has been submitted to the City-Parish. Requests are being considered to the State and to FEMA. The Spirit of 45 event has been rescheduled for December 7. We have some items for the silent auction but others are needed. Other marketing initiatives are being considered to increase revenue: free Sunday sponsorships, brochures in rest stops and a display at the airport. Several overnights are scheduled which should help. Several Commissioners offered suggestions.

Technology report. Pearce Cinman introduced Mitch Verma who referred the Commission to a written proposal to improve our IT infrastructure and to provide wireless service for our facilities. He emphasized that the infrastructure should be

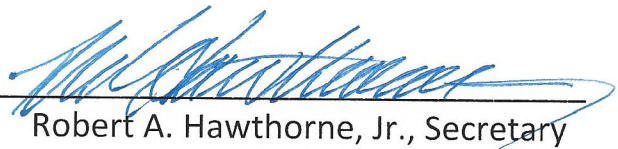
done first but could be done in stages. The Chairman thanked him for his efforts on behalf of the Commission.

Drummond plaque. Commissioner Kennedy submitted wording for a plaque commemorating Maury Drummond's long service as executive director. On motion by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Brandt, the Commission authorized him to continue to refine the wording with Mrs. Drummond and to proceed with such a plaque. The Chairman stated that Bill Barnhouse, the last surviving officer of the WWII crew of the Kidd promised to fund a plaque honoring Maury Drummond. Mr. Barnhouse was also the gunnery officer on the Kidd in charge of a battery attempting to shoot down the kamikaze plane which struck the Kidd.

Next meeting. The Chairman announced that the next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for December 15. He asked if 4:00 pm was a good time of day or should we consider another time. No one had any other suggestions.

Public Comments. The Chairman asked if there were any comments from the public. There were none.

Adjournment: The Chairman asked if anyone had further business for the Commission. He received no response so he adjourned the meeting at 5:46 p.m.



Robert A. Hawthorne, Jr., Secretary