

LOUISIANA NAVAL WAR MEMORIAL COMMISSION

Minutes of Commission Meeting

June 20, 2019

4:00 p.m.

Members present:

Richard Brandt
Robert Hawthorne
Joe Jenkins
Kyle Kennedy
Henson Moore

Larry Muenzler
Robert Schilling
Leonard Sedlin
John Wells
Roderick Wells

Members absent:

Franklin Foil
C.J. Krueger
Karen St. Cyr
Hans Sternberg

Michael Vicari
Representative of Secretary of Veterans
Affairs

Others present:

Tim NesSmith
Todd Maulding
Cliff Deal
Sheldon Fountain
Tom Miller
Patricia Calfee

Lauren Crump
Cody Louviere
Brent Sims
Jordan Kieff

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.

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 on motion duly made and seconded.

Introduction of Interim Executive Director. The Chairman introduced Cliff Deal, a consultant, who has been engaged by the Executive Committee to perform the functions of interim executive director. Cliff Deal explained that he is part-time and normally works at the museum on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Election of Treasurer. The Chairman noted that the office of Treasurer has been vacant since the beginning of the year and asked Commissioner Jenkins if the nominating committee had any nominations. Commissioner Jenkins replied that on behalf of the nominating committee he nominates Commissioner Larry Muenzler to serve as Treasurer of the Commission. The Chairman asked if there were any other nominations.

There were none. Commissioner John Wells moved that the nominations be closed and that Larry Muenzler be elected Treasurer. Commissioner Kennedy seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Search Committee Report. Commissioner Hawthorne reported that the committee has met twice and, because of a timing issue, has conducted one interview. That candidate announced at the end of the interview that she needed an immediate answer. The committee stated that they were not in a position to respond that quickly, so that candidate is no longer under consideration. The committee hopes to find a local person and has asked a number of local leaders to make recommendations. The committee has also posted the position on Indeed.com which has yielded two prospect who merit further investigation. The opening will also be posted with local and regional museum and non-profit associations. Cliff Deal is also a candidate. In response to a question Commissioner Hawthorne explained that the committee hopes to be able to agree on and present to the Commission only one candidate for the position, but will present more than one if that seems more appropriate. He further explained that once the committee decides on a person or on a slate, a procedure will be devised, based on individual circumstances at that time, to afford every commissioner the opportunity to interview the candidate or candidates. The Chairman interjected that references checked will go beyond those supplied by the candidate and the commissioners will have the benefit of the information generated by those efforts.

Report on Roarin' On The River Gala and Introduction of Gala Planning Committee. The Chairman reported that he had received glowing reports about the gala and introduced Patricia Calfee and Lauren Crump. He explained that they had applied their organizational skills through the Baton Rouge Area Foundation and are largely responsible for making the event a success. Each spoke briefly to the Commission about the importance of continuing contacts with the donors and those who attended and supported the gala. Ms. Calfee strongly recommended that by October the Commission should have plans in place for next year's gala, including the date which should be announced by a kick-off party. Ms. Crump emphasized that for our first such event, it was very successful. But we should continue to build on that success and pointed to the Fur Ball which now attracts 900+ patrons and nets over six figures.

Marketing Plan. The Chairman introduced Brent Sims and Jordan Kieff of Rokit Science whose firm has been working on a marketing plan. They presented samples of possible logos for various uses by the Kidd. After discussion and input from several commissioners, they agreed to try to show more motion of the ship in the logos. They will provide updates electronically for future input from commissioners. They also showed possibilities for the outside of the building with banners and wraps on the lower windows. They will also consider what should be done on the river side of the building. The Chairman thanked them for their interest in and work on behalf of the Kidd.

Financial Report. Commissioner Muenzler gave a brief report to the effect that we are currently in the black and that projections for the remainder of the year look positive. He will do a cash flow analysis and report back.

Virtual Reality Experience Prototype Presentation. Cody Louviere of King Crow Studios had available for demonstration purposes a prototype of the virtual video game he is working on which features the Kidd. He provided a written proposal which explains the remaining steps and the financial plan. He commented that this project is characterized as a “location-based” entertainment experience which can involve several players at the same time. He also stressed that the play ends with a memorial to each of the crew who lost their lives in the kamikaze attack on the Kidd during the battle of Okinawa. This technology also has additional possibilities which could benefit the Kidd. The Chairman thanked him for his presentation.

Theatre/Multi-purpose Room Renovations. Commissioner Sedlin explained that Fritz Embaugh of Plus OneDesign & Construction has been providing design and cost projections for converting the theatre space into multi-purpose space. A potential sponsor for this group has asked for upgrades to the original plan. That proposal, including upgraded audio-visual equipment, a welcoming video, sound-proofing and furnishings is nearing completion and will be ready for the potential sponsor when he returns from vacation next month. The Chairman thanked Commissioner Sedlin for the report and asked that he express our thanks to Fritz Embaugh for his work on this project.

Director’s report. Cliff Deal thanked the Commission for the opportunity to serve as interim executive director. He passed out a list of topics and commented briefly on each including the following:

- The grant request for the City-Parish has been timely filed;
- A grant request to Entergy for the memorial plaza has been renewed;
- He is attempting to find sponsors for the July 4th Celebration. He does not know the amount of our share of the fireworks but is using \$10,500 for planning purposes;
- He is exploring whether to make Todd Mauldin’s position full time;
- He is working with Carolyn Castel on getting the thank you letters out to the gala supporters;
- He is also looking for sponsors for the Fall traveling exhibit, Snoopy and the Red Baron, in the amount of \$14,000.

HVAC upgrade. Tim NesSmith reported that State Facilities Services has agreed to do a comprehensive survey next week of the entire HVAC system and to contract for whatever is needed to bring the system up to date. He also pointed to the broken window and was asked if we have security cameras. He answered in the negative which prompted a discussion.

Old Business. The Chairman asked but received no response, so he moved on to the next agenda item.

New Business.

Tim NesSmith recognized two long-time volunteers, Jimmy Fountain and Tom Miller, who have rendered and are rendering invaluable service to the Kidd.

Commissioner Jenkins pointed out that we should look at the expiration dates of the terms of each commissioner. The Chairman agreed and stated that his understanding is that a commissioner whose term has expired continues to serve until his successor has been duly appointed and confirmed.

The Chairman announced that the next scheduled meeting of the Commission is September 19, 2019 at 4:00 o'clock P.M. There may be another in December if we are ready to talk about privatizing operations, which many museums have done.

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

Adjournment. No one offered further comments so the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Robert A. Hawthorne, Jr., Secretary