**KENNER NAVAL MUSEUM COMMISSION MEETING**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2016**

PRESENT: Members- Claude Todaro, Fred Miller, Tim Breaux, Doug Crowell, Rafael Saddy. Lewis Faucheux, Stan Benoit and Arthur Tudela

ABSENT: Col. Frank Arnemann and David Vicknair

This meeting’s agenda and previous minutes from April 19, 2016 meeting were handed out to all members.

At 7:00 PM Claude Todaro called the meeting to order. Mr. Todaro asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the April 19, 2016. Mr. Faucheux motioned to accept the minutes as read and seconded by Mr. Breaux. Lynda Prattini read the Financial Report. As of the bank statement dated August 31, 2016, the Commission has $4,147.18 in its account. Mr. Miller motioned to accept the Financial Report as read and seconded by Mr. Breaux .

Mr. Todaro stated he talked to the man at the scrap yard where the ships mast for the Saratoga is stored. He asked Mr. Todaro to call him at the end of the month or October 1st and he should have some good news.

Mr. Tudela asked how much is it going to cost and is there any work that has to be done on it?

Mr. Todaro said it is his understanding the mast will be donated and the City of Kenner will take care of the rest. He has a crew ready to go get it and the City will do any modifications that are needed.

Mr. Todaro sent letters to Congressman Steve Scalise and Senator David Vitter asking them to help us locate and acquire retired helicopter and tank for placement in our Museum at Veterans Park. So far he had not heard from neither one.

Mr. Saddy said he was in Washington D.C. two months ago and he asked Congressman Scalise to help the Commission to get more items for the Park. He told Mr. Saddy you have to keep “knocking on my door” because he is campaigning for re-election to Congress. Mr. Saddy asked for a copy of the letter that was sent to Congressman Scalise.

Mr. Tudela said Cedric Richardson is a Congressional representative for this area. He also said this is his district.

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Mr. Todaro told Mr. Tudela we could send Mr. Richardson a request if he truly was the representative for this area. Congressman Scalise is the representative for our area. We already sent him a request for a helicopter and tank.

Mr. Todaro said he has not been given the exact date of Veterans Day Celebration in Kenner yet. It should be November 3rd but he will contact George Bode in the Mayor’s office to be sure. We already have a speaker. He is a Navy Captain.

Mr. Saddy asked if the Staff Car in the park has been repaired because a tree fell on it.

Mr. Todaro said it is being worked on now. Mr. Don Salles, the person who originally restored it, is working on it now. He is fixing the roof and running boards.

Mr. Tudela informed the Commission the past Legislative Session eliminated terms on Boards and Commissions, but you still have to apply. He informed us Mr. Miller’s term expired January 1, 2016, and he has not set in an application to renew.

Mr. Miller stated he was not aware of this and will have to check into it.

Mr. Tudela also stated we need to form a subcommittee to discuss the 43 administrative issues. He needs two or three volunteers to come forward so these issues can be discussed.

Mr. Todaro questioned Mr. Tudela how he comes up with 43 issues before he even attended his first meeting.

Mr. Miller told Mr. Tudela how can we believe what he says.

Mr. Tudela said he would not think about getting in front of us to lie. He said we are in violation of State Statues.

Mr. Miller insisted that Mr. Tudela was lying because he was caught in a few lies at the first meeting he attended.

Mr. Tudela told Mr. Miller to shut up and sit down.

Mr. Benoit told Mr. Tudela he was out of line.

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Mr. Saddy asked Mr. Todaro and Ms. Prattini if they have gotten notice from the State that we

were not in compliance.

Mr. Todaro and Ms. Prattini said no.

Mr. Benoit said in regards to being in the Commission for five or six years, our members have all been helpful trying to get items for the Park and working with each other to accomplish good things for the Commission. He told Mr. Tudela at his first meeting he comes up with 43 issues that the Commission is doing incorrectly. He asked Mr. Tudela “why are you here”.

Mr. Tudela said he was a private citizen and wanted to get involved.

Mr. Benoit said Senator Gary Smith does not know who you are. Did you ever ask Mr. Todaro if you could be on the Commission?

Mr. Tudela said no, he went to Senator Gary Smith and said he wanted to be on the Commission. He gave a copy of his DD214 and fill out an application and many forms.

Mr. Benoit told Mr. Tudela in regards to forming a committee to resolve the 43 so called issues, this is not going to happen. The Commission member you replaced, Mr. Hardman, who was in the Lt. Governor’s office, told us numerous things to do and helped us accomplish many good things for the Commission. Why are you on this Commission?

Mr. Tudela had no comment.

Mr. Benoit continued by stating his recommendation and made a motion to send a letter to Senator Gary Smith with a copy to the Lt. Governor, asking to rescind Mr. Tudela’s commission. Mr. Breaux seconded the motion. He said our objective is to help the Park. He told Mr. Tudela if his nonprofit wants to help the Commission, we will work with him.

Mr. Breaux asked Mr. Tudela what reason was it that made him research the 43 issues. What kind of person would do this at the first meeting?

Mr. Todaro asked Mr. Tudela what kind of guy would say that I as Chairman “should step down and maybe need some new leadership and a better secretary that knows the law.” Life is not a bowl of cherries.

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Mr. Tudela said he went on line under statue of which the Commission was created, read up on it and found the discrepancies.

Mr. Breaux asked Mr. Tudela, “This is what you did before you came to your first meeting”?

Mr. Tudela did not answer Mr. Breaux. He just stated Legislation changed term limits. He said six members can have domicile in Kenner.

Mr. Benoit said Mr. Tudela saw things out of compliance. Mr. Benoit said he has a problem with Mr. Tudela not cooperating with the Commission and looking for wrong doings before attending his first meeting at the Commission. He doesn’t see where there could be an amicable relationship with Mr. Tudela.

Mr. Tudela said he met with the Chief of Staff at the State and he said he should form a subcommittee if I had the paperwork to back it up. He is no longer at the State.

Mr. Benoit said if he agreed with that, it is good he is gone.

Mr. Todaro said according to Mr. Benoit’s motion to send a letter to Senator Gary Smith with a copy to Lt. Governor to request to remove Mr. Arthur Tudela from the Commission and to reinstate Mr. Cleve Hardman to the Commission representing the Lt. Governor, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Breaux, he asked all in favor. The vote was 6 in favor (Mr. Caldwell left before the voting because he became ill) and 1 abstaining (Mr. Tudela). The majority was in favor so a letter will be drafted and all the members in favor will sign the letter and it will be sent to Senator Smith and Lt. Governor. We are not doing anything behind your back Mr. Tudela. We are telling you this is going to be done to your face and not behind your back. Mr. Tudela did not answer.

Mr. Breaux asked if Col. Arnemann was in town because he was supposed to get with him to go to Camp Shelby. Mr. Todaro said he thought so, he just had something else planned for tonight.

There being no further business, Mr. Todaro adjourned the meeting.

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