LOUISIANA NAVAL WAR MEMORIAL COMMISSION
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 27, 2025 MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Leslie Nicholson – Chairman-
H. Davis Cole - Vice Chairman-
David Couvillon - Treasurer -
Roderick Wells – Secretary-
Elsie Angelique Bergeron
Earnest Buckner-
Timothy Credeur II
Robert Hawthorne-
John Patrick Mulhearn
Karen St. Cyr-
Ashley Taylor
Deborah Todd

MEMBERS ABSENT
Katie Pryor – Excused-
Keith Chappell - Excused

OTHERS PRESENT:
Parks Stephenson - Executive Director
Tim NesSmith - Ship Superintendent
Gabrielle Fulton - Business Manager
Elijah Otto - Curator
Molly Bollinger - Social Media Coordinator
Nate Bergeron - Master Fabricator
Larry Selders - Louisiana State Senator

CALL TO ORDER: The Chairman called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM: The Chairman confirmed the existence of a quorum.

INTRODUCTORY MATTERS: The Chairman reported that John Wells had resigned from the Commission. The new commissioners introduced themselves and briefly described their backgrounds. The Executive Director introduced his staff. After being introduced and welcomed by the Chairman, Senator Larry Selders expressed his long time affection for the USS Kidd and its museum, which are in his District, and pledged his full support whenever needed.

APPROVALS: The attached minutes of the Commission meeting on November 12, 2024, and the completed Louisiana State Auditor Compliance Questionnaire were each circulated to the Commission prior to this meeting. The Vice Chairman noted that his address was incorrect on the

Questionnaire. No corrections were noted with respect to the minutes. Accordingly, motions were made to approve the minutes and the corrected Questionnaire, duly seconded and approved by the Commission.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT, JANUARY 16, 2025: The attached minutes of the Executive Committee, along with the 2025 Budget approved by the Committee, were circulated to the Commission prior to this meeting. Following a full discussion, a motion was made to approve the attached 2025 Budget, duly seconded and approved by the Commission. It was noted that any increases in the Budget of more than $1000 required approval by the Executive Committee.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: The attached report was circulated to the Commission prior to this meeting. The Executive Director discussed the major operational and financial issues facing the ship and the Museum, as laid out in his report, and answered various questions from the commissioners. The Chairman expressed the Commission's appreciation for the thoroughness of the Executive Director's Report and his presentation.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: The Chairman briefed the Commission on his negotiations with the Belle Casino regarding its requested Roadway Changes and the adverse effect of those changes on the Museum. He noted that the Casino appeared willing to ameliorate much of the adverse effects and that the prospect of a favorable outcome of these and future negotiations with the Casino was enhanced by the support being voiced for the Museum by the Mayor and the Downtown Development District.

The Chairman also stated his belief, based on assurances he had received, that the State would provide the additional funding required to (1) operate the Museum for the second half of 2025 and (2) complete the additional repairs needed by the Kidd. Completion of the additional repair work will delay the ship's return until approximately November, 2025.

APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO THE COMMISSION'S CONTRACT WITH TMC: The attached amendments (One and Two) were circulated to the Commission prior to this meeting. The Chairman summarized the substance of the amendments and answered various questions. After which, motions were made to approve each amendment, duly seconded and approved by the Commission.

NEW BUSINESS: There was a general discussion of the planning and collaboration needed to be done for the return of the Kidd and the possibility of docking the ship temporarily where the Belle Casino's boat had been docked until the river level was high enough to dock the ship in its cradle.

ADJOURNMENT: The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 5:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roderick Wells, Secretary