

LOUISIANA NAVAL WAR MEMORIAL COMMISSION

Minutes of Commission Meeting

August 10, 2023 – 4:00 p.m.

Members present:

H. Davis Cole, Chairman
Col. David W. Couvillon
Robert Hawthorne
Larry Muenzler
Les Nicholson
Karen St. Cyr
Earnest Buckner, LDVA designee
Roderick Wells

Members absent:

Richard Brandt
Donnie J. Miller, III
Katie Pryor
Michael Vicari
C.J. Krueger
John Wells

Others present:

Parks Stephenson, Executive Director
Todd Maulding, Business Manager
Lloyd Johnson, Faulk & Winkler, LLC
Jill Munchouser, Faulk & Winkler, LLC

Call to order: At 4:00 o'clock p.m. the meeting was called to order at the Museum by the Chairman, H. Davis Cole, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda: The Chairman/Commissioner H. Davis Cole 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.

Audit Report:

Lloyd Johnson and Jill Munchouser, CPA from Faulk & Winkler were present and made a presentation on the annual audit. The audit report was for the year ending December 31, 2022. Faulk & Winkler reviewed the report and only found 1 reportable finding in the audit. Collateral Pledge securities in the excess of Federal Deposit Insurance exceeded the limit in one bank account and did not have sufficient pledged securities for the uncollateralized portion. This finding has been corrected to insure FIDC requirements. This was the only finding and the Louisiana Naval War Memorial Commission. Overall, the Commission had a positive year. The Commission financial position has grown in the last four years. The prior issue with the legislative auditor has been resolved and has been accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Todd Maulding, business manager reported that the City/Grant has not been received. The Commission was a victim of fraud in the amount of \$15,000 on our back account so it is on our expenses. He is working with Region Bank for a reimbursement.

Ship Status report:

Mr. NesSmith, ship superintendent, was absent due to illness and the executive director covered the ship status in his report.

Executive Director's report:

Parks Stephenson, executive director, provided a detailed report of the condition of the Museum and the hull and next steps needed as the staff plans for the vessel's absence while the ship is taken to dry dock. GIS Engineering is conducting a survey of the ship and working on cost estimates for rehabilitation. The ship is expected to go dry dock sometime next year. Efforts will be made to retain the museum core staff of five employees and keep the museum operational during this process. The extra pumps that were purchased with Foundation money in January, 2023 have been effective in controlling flooding in the lower hull. The "rust eruption" in the galvanized steel used on the main deck in the stern section reached a critical stage on the portside. The executive director authorized the purchase of steel plate to patch to an approximate 24' x 6' area. The museum and commission will celebrate having over 2 million visitors in 40 years sometime this year.

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Old Business: The chairman opened the floor for old business. There was none.

Approval of Minutes: Approval of the minutes of March 6, 2023 and November 22, 2023 Commission meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Bob Hawthorne, seconded by Les Nicholson. With revisions noted on the March 6, 2023 minutes: GIS Engineering rather than GEC; and correction to the second motion in the treasurer's report to review contingency spending by the executive director and develop policies and procedures. Commissioner Larry Muenzler made the motion.

Approval of the minutes of March 6, 2023 Commission meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Bob Hawthorne, seconded by Les Nicholson.

New Business: The chairman asked if there was any new business offered. H. Davis Cole, chairman read a statement from John Wells who also serves as the Chairman Military-Veterans Advocacy, Inc. ®. His statement noted that his organization held the first Veteran's Get Outside event at the museum and it was a success. Over 100 people attended. Commissioner Wells thanked the Commission and staff for their efforts and support of this event.

Committee Reports: H. Davis Cole noted that the Commission needs to make an effort to thank and recognize Franklin Foil for his support in obtaining the state capital outlay funds. He also thanked Les Nickolson for his efforts and leadership in securing the funds. The museum will plan a Farewell Reception when the ship goes to dry dock.

It was noted that the Commission needs to replace the Lieutenant Governor's appointment since Aaron Bayham resignation. Commission Hawthorne and Les Nicholson will look-into the matter to obtain a new designee from the Lt. Governor's office. It was also noted that there are Commissioners who have not attended meetings. The nominating committee will review attendance.

Public comments: The chairman asked if there were any comments from the public. None was mentioned.

Adjournment: After brief comments, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.



Karen K. St. Cyr, Secretary