**LOUISIANA NAVAL WAR MEMORIAL COMMISSION**

Minutes of Commission Meeting

August 8, 2015

9:00 a.m.

Members present:

* Richard Brandt
* Mike McNaughton
* Robert Hawthorne
* Joe Jenkins
* Bobbie Pugh
* Leonard Sedlin
* Franklin Foil

Members absent:

* Henson Moore
* Hans Sternberg
* Kenneth Kimberly
* Rudolph Bourg
* Kyle Kennedy
* Karen St. Cyr

Others present:

* Alex Juan, Executive Director
* Tim NesSmith
* Jerry Pugh
* David Soulier
* Benjamin Fernandez
* Stephanie Fernandez
* Craig Juan
* Matthew Cassiglia
* Joe Bussiere

Call to order: At 9:00 o’clock a.m. the meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Joe Jenkins, who led in the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for a roll call after which he declared that a quorum was not present.

Agenda: The Chairman asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Commissioner Sedlin asked that a report from the Long-Range Planning Committee be added to the agenda. The Chairman agreed.

Minutes: No one had any changes or corrections to the minutes of the last meeting.

Foundation report: The Chairman announced that the Commission’s relationship with the newly formed foundation was discussed at the Executive Committee meeting. He has appointed a task force comprised of Commissioners St. Cyr, Hawthorne and himself to work with the foundation to explore how best to coordinate fundraising efforts for maximum effectiveness. The Executive Director will also be involved in this effort and any Commissioner is welcome to attend meetings of the task force.

Nominating committee report: The Chairman explained that the nominating committee will meet before the end of the month and report to the Commission. Nominations may also be submitted by any Commissioner but should be accompanied by an appropriate resume. The Governor has not acted on the nominees submitted to his office but should do so soon. The terms of 3 Commissioners will expire in November but they can continue to act until their successors have been qualified. Commissioner Hawthorne volunteered to determine what the legislation and bylaws provide concerning Commissioners who do not attend meetings.

Long-range Planning Committee. Commissioner Sedlin reported that the committee will meet again with the Baton Rouge Area Foundation on September 8 at 1:30 p.m. at BRAF’s office. All Commissioners are invited to attend. The subcommittees have met and are meeting so development of the long-range plan is still on schedule. He reminded the Commission that this effort is focusing on the big picture and not on immediate concerns.

Executive Director’s report. The Executive Director submitted a written report which is attached to these minutes. She explained each item, highlights of which include the following:

* She hopes to avoid layoffs.
* Profit for the July 4 event was $11,200. She recommends continuing to partner with WBRZ.
* The programs for veterans, children, and the public are continuing to be successful.
* The financial records are in the office and a notebook is always available to Commissioners.
* She continues to be concerned about retiree benefits and other personnel matters. She really needs the Commission to appoint a Personnel Committee.
* She has asked Risk Management for a 3 month suspension of our premium payments but has not yet received an answer.
* Hull painting has been postponed because of the high water level in the River.
* There is a possible leak in the HVAC system which may be a problem.
* Friends of the Kidd is doing well.
* Tsunami wants to help with a fundraising event at their restaurant.
* The report contains an impressive list of events.
* She brought up the maintenance issues with the building which have not been resolved. Commissioner Foil agreed to explore what help from the State might be available. Commissioner Sedlin agreed to explore what portable air conditioning equipment would be available if needed.
* Commissioner Hawthorne agreed to talk with the general counsel for the Lt. Governor on various issues involving the Kidd.

Announcements. The Chairman announced that Alex Juan will be publicly recognized by her alma mater, the University of Southeastern Louisiana for her accomplishments. He complimented her and the entire staff for their work at the Kidd.

Commissioner Sedlin stated that he will again nominate Alex for the 40 under 40 recognition.

Commissioner McNaughton asked when the next meeting will be held. The Chairman stated that it is scheduled for November 14 with the Executive Committee on November 5, but he may move those meetings to earlier dates.

Eight WWII veterans will be honored at *Keep the Spirit of ‘45 Alive! ceremony*. It will be a great event.

Public Comments. The Chairman asked if there were any comments from the public. Tim NesSmith reminded everyone to look at the working radar antenna.

Adjournment: The Chairman asked if anyone had further business for the Commission. He received no response so he adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

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 Robert A. Hawthorne, Jr., Secretary