

Minutes of the Patriots Point Development Authority 557th Board Meeting, 10:00 A.M., Friday, February 21st, 2025, Patriots Point Boardroom, Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum, Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Wayne Adams, *Acting Chair*
Susan Marlowe
Mayor Will Haynie
Pat Waters
James Smith, *via virtual call*
Zeb Williams, *via virtual call*

STAFF PRESENT:

Allison Hunt, *Executive Director*
Chris Hauff, *Chief of Staff*
Nick Magar, *Chief Financial Officer*
Chris Coleman, *IT Director*
Belinda Aughenbaugh, *IT*
Matthew Franklin, *IT*
Chris Jones, *Operations Director*
Gina Zahran, *Visitor Services Director*
Sam Elkin, *Marketing Director*
Lori Held, *Administrative Coordinator*
Miranda Helton, *Registrar*
Colby Causey, *Archivist*
Hannah Kratz, *Education*
John Willman, *Videographer*
Meredith Kablick, *Collections*
Lauren Austin, *Assistant Marketing Director*
Terry Ansley, *Property Manager*

OTHERS PRESENT:

Bill Craver, *Counsel*
Brandon Dermody, *The Southern Group*
Kayla Webber, *USS Yorktown Foundation*
Chauncey Clark, *USS Yorktown Foundation*
Chad Graham, *Congressional Medal of Honor Society*
Cindy Lee, *USS Yorktown Association*

Acting Chair Wayne Adams called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

The agenda was unanimously approved with no changes.

B. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes were unanimously approved with no changes.

C. INTRODUCTIONS

Allison Hunt highlighted the IT Department and asked Chris Coleman, IT Director, to make the introductions. Mr. Coleman introduced Belinda Aughenbaugh and Matthew Franklin. His third employee, Craig Johnson, was not present. Both Ms. Hunt and Mr. Coleman gave high praise to the team. Mr. Adams thanked the team for all they do.

Mr. Adams welcomed Chad Graham with the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.

D. COMMITTEE REPORTS

MUSEUM AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Susan Marlowe presented the following report:

The fifth-grade education program is operating at maximum capacity.

The Education Department collaborated with the Curatorial Department on a professional development program, *Weaving A Story: Reading Between the Lines of Shore Leave*. The program reached teachers in ten schools in the Charleston County School District and was the first program developed with assistance from CCSD.

Ms. Marlowe also announced new projects from the Collections Department. *The Artful Engineer: The Collection of Stephen D. Fitch*, is the newest online collection. She also reported two new exhibits: a new display in the Quonset hut case to be ready for Vietnam Veterans Day, and a temporary exhibit on the Laffey to honor the 80th anniversary of the kamikaze attacks on Okinawa.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Sam Elkins, Marketing Director, presented the following report:

A new ad campaign in the Myrtle Beach area promoting Spring Break will be run later this month and continue through the remainder of the fiscal year.

A digital screen ad at the Charleston International Airport in the baggage claim area will run from March through May 2025.

Ms. Elkins shared the new visitor guide with the board. She also announced that new banners have been installed in Hangar Bay 2 to promote Operation Overnight, Membership, and the Captain's Tours. New informational signage has installed along the pier.

E. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Allison Hunt gave the following updates:

The SCOR Remediation Phase II project will begin Monday, February 24th. Ms. Hunt thanked the Governor and the General Assembly for supporting this project, and SCOR for their leadership and project management.

In celebration of Member Appreciation Month in March, the Yorktown Foundation will host a Member Appreciation event aboard the Yorktown. This is one of several membership initiatives planned in the month of March.

Ms. Hunt gave updates on Shore Leave Lager and its increasing expansion in local markets and surrounding communities. The Foundation receives 15% of all distribution sales which contributes to fundraising efforts. Ms. Hunt acknowledged Patriots Point volunteers Mary Ellen and Geoff Berkau and thanked them for their work on this initiative.

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS.

There were no public comments.

G. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING CONTRACTUAL MATTERS PERTAINING TO CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL HONOR SOCIETY AND COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON

1. Pat Waters made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contractual matters pertaining to Congressional Medal Honor Society and College of Charleston. Mayor Will Haynie seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The Board went into Executive Session at 10:22 AM.
2. The Board returned from Executive Session at 11:34 A.M. No votes were taken in Executive Session.

H. OTHER BUSINESS.

Pat Waters made a motion that the board pass a resolution to accept the Eighth Amendment to the license agreement with the Congressional Metal of Honor Society as presented. Ms. Marlowe seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

I. NEXT TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED PPDA BOARD MEETING, MARCH 21st, 2025.

J. ADJOURNMENT.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:36 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

s/Lori Held

Lori Held, *Recording Secretary*

s/Allison Hunt

Allison Hunt, *Board Secretary and Executive Director*