



# Minutes from 21 June 2018

## HRMFFA Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting

1. HRMFFA's quarterly Board of Directors meeting was held at the Regional Building in Chesapeake on 21 June 2018. Public Board members present were: Mayors Alexander, Jones, Price, Rabil, Rowe and Tuck; Supervisors Hipple and Shepperd. City Manager Jim Baker attended as a non-voting member representing Mayor West. Private Board members present were: Baugh, Black, Curtis, Dreyfus, Hoogstraten, Klett and McKenna. Karl Johnson attended as a non-voting member representing Joe Campbell. Executive Director Quigley, Deputy Executive Director Dwyer and Treasurer Collins were also present. A quorum was achieved.
2. Board Chair Tom Shepperd called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m. and offered welcoming remarks. He then opened the floor for public comments; there were none. Mr. Shepperd also welcomed the Commonwealth's Deputy Secretary for Veterans and Defense Affairs, Jaime Areizaga-Soto, to the meeting.
3. Chair Shepperd then introduced Dr. David Bowles, Director of the NASA Langley Research Center (LaRC), who gave a presentation to the Board about his center's activities and the way ahead. Dr. Bowles discussed the center's economic impact of over \$1B in Hampton Roads and the over 6,400 jobs it supports. He stated the new administration has been very supportive of NASA as indicated by its reinvigorating the Space Council chaired by the Vice President. He also stated the new NASA Administrator, Jim Bridenstine, is tentatively scheduled to visit LaRC on 31 July and thanked NAST and HRMFFA for their support in hosting a reception for Mr. Bridenstine that evening. Dr. Bowles discussed LaRC's main focus areas of aeronautics, earth science and space exploration. Their X-plane research will be the key to allowing supersonic air travel over land in the future. The largest portion of LaRC's budget is in earth science and Dr. Bowles is encouraged by the new administrator's comments supporting continued robust research in this area. Dr. Bowles stated his goals of continuing to transform and modernize LaRC and make it into a "smart center" using technologies like many smart city initiatives underway throughout the country. This area offers potential partnership opportunities with local communities, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, and other entities. Mayor Price asked whether President Trump's recent directive to



create a Space Force in the Department of Defense was a threat or opportunity. Dr. Bowles responded that he had not yet been part of any discussions on the new potential service, but he thought it was too early to tell. Thinking optimistically, he thought it could present some opportunities for NASA.

4. John Simmons from The Roosevelt Group provided a Washington update:
  - Recent discussions with the Air Force indicated they don't know yet whether a new Space Force will be under the Air Force (similar to the Marine Corps being under the Department of the Navy), or whether it would be its own department. They also don't know where the money will come from. Congress will have a strong voice on whether to create a new force.
  - He briefed a summary of the status of the various authorization and appropriation bills, respective dollar amounts and force structure increases. The bills also include a 2.6% pay raise for uniformed service members. Due to the two-year budget agreement signed earlier this year, there is a chance that Congress may pass the authorization bills before the end of the fiscal year. Still remains to be seen whether the appropriations can be completed by 30 September.
  - Mr. Simmons briefed that both the Senate and House versions of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) create a new Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) and authorize \$100M for it. This program would allow DoD to fund community infrastructure projects outside the base if those projects benefit the installation. Both versions require a minimum cost share with the state or local community (20% in House and 30% in Senate). The DCIP still needs appropriators to put money against it. He also mentioned that Congressman Taylor was successful in getting an amendment in the MILCON-VA appropriations bill that would modify the Defense Access Roads program to allow money to be spent on flood mitigation efforts that affect public roads serving military installations.
  - Mr. Simmons reminded the board about an initiative HRMFFA previously advocated for concerning Air Force training ranges that aviation units in Hampton Roads use. Based on this advocacy, DoD was required to provide a report to Congress on the adequacy of its training ranges. DoD's response was that its ranges are not adequate for current 5<sup>th</sup> generation aircraft and that threat simulation improvements are being pursued. This should help get funding for improvements to the Dare County bombing range that Hampton Roads units use extensively.
  - Mr. Simmons briefed that the House MILCON-VA bill includes a provision that directs DoD to expedite projects included in the Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Plan which HRMFFA strongly supported. This should help get projects funded that benefit the Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth. The bill also includes language that encourages the Department of Veterans



Affairs to identify Community Based Outpatient Facilities for expansion to reduce the need for veterans to travel long distances for care. This should help keep the planned Southside VA facility on track and potentially expand capacity.

- Mr. Simmons then discussed the proposed authorization and appropriations bills for NASA. Both versions call for approximately \$20B - \$21.5B for the agency, including around \$700M for aeronautics research. These figures should benefit NASA Langley. Additionally, Senator Warner introduced the Aeronautics Innovation Act which, along with a companion bill introduced by Rep Knight in the House, assures sustained support for NASA's aeronautics research which will also benefit NASA Langley. HRMFFA played a role in crafting the language and supporting these bills.
  - Mr. Simmons then recapped some of HRMFFA's and The Roosevelt Group's advocacy efforts during the Association of Defense Communities National Summit in D.C. 18-20 June. We met with DoD leadership on installation issues for the Air Force, Army and Navy. Topics covered included offshore energy development and its impact on training ranges off the Virginia coast, Public-Public/Public-Private partnership opportunities in the region, merger of 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Air Force HQs and combat adversary air at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, shipyard optimization, and access to wireless broadband on installations. Meetings were very productive and well received by the services.
  - Chair Shepperd commented that budget pressures in the future due to the mounting national debt could end up shrinking DoD budgets. He asked Mr. Simmons to include info in future briefings on budget impacts on regional facilities due to the rising national debt.
5. Executive Director Quigley then introduced the projected end-of-FY2018 financial statement. He noted HRMFFA will execute about 98% of its FY2018 budget. He also pointed out the \$3,000 support for anniversary observances at Naval Weapons Station Yorktown (100 years), Joint Base Langley Eustis (100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Eustis), and Naval Air Station Oceana (75 years). Mr. Hipple asked what kind of investments our retained earnings were in. Mr. Quigley stated that approximately \$320K were conservatively invested in CDs with the remainder in money market certificates. Mr. Hipple then asked if HRMFFA had a budget committee to look at these types of issues. Mr. Quigley said HRMFFA did not have a budget committee but could easily establish one if the Board desired and saw a need. There were no other comments or concerns with the financials voiced by Board members.

6. Mr. Quigley then presented HRMFFA's draft FY2019 budget to the Board. Under revenues, he noted the private sector board member contributions are reduced by \$25K due to the pending dissolution of the NASA Aerospace Support Team (NAST) around the November/December timeframe. Mr. Quigley stated the labor expenses included a 2.5% pay increase for staff which was in line with what HRPDC, HRTPO and HRTAC were proposing for their staff. The other expenses were in line with FY2018 expenditures except for the professional development line which was increased by \$3K due to Deputy Executive Director Dwyer being selected to participate in the next CIVIC Leadership Institute class. Mayor Alexander asked when the last time the lobbying contract was renewed, how it was advertised and how The Roosevelt Group was selected. Mr. Quigley stated the contract has been in place since the summer of 2012. The request for proposals was run in the Federal Register and an ad placed in the Washington Post three consecutive Saturdays in the spring of 2012 and HRMFFA received five proposals. A Board committee reviewed the proposals and unanimously recommended The Roosevelt Group to the Board which was unanimously approved. Mr. Quigley also stated that the Board discussed issuing a new RFP at the December 2016 Board meeting, but decided to stay with The Roosevelt Group because they didn't think it would be a good idea to switch in the middle of the Presidential transition. The Board discussed the issue again at the December 2017 Board meeting and decided to stay with The Roosevelt Group indefinitely due to the favorable costs, exceptional performance and familiarity with the region and our installation missions. Mr. Quigley said he would provide Mayor Alexander and the Board the documents related to the selection process. Mayor Alexander thanked Mr. Quigley for the explanation and expressed his support for forming a budget committee as mentioned by Supervisor Hipple. Chair Shepperd asked if there was a motion to approve the proposed FY2019 budget. Mayor Price made the motion and Mayor Rowe seconded it. The Board vote was unanimous to approve.
  
7. Chair Shepperd then asked the Board whether they wanted to try for a second time to make a Board trip to DC since the visit scheduled for June 13 had to be canceled because most of the elected officials had schedule conflicts. Mr. Shepperd stressed the importance of showing to DoD leadership and our CODEL that our region is paying attention and cares about the issues here. He also stressed that we needed strong participation from the elected Board members in order to make the trip productive. Mr. Quigley reiterated that scheduling constraints dictate that the trip would need to be on a Tuesday or Wednesday due to the congressional schedule. Since Tuesdays and Wednesdays are often city council or board of supervisor meeting days, some elected officials would need to miss those meetings for the trip. Supervisor



Shepperd asked for a show of hands from who would be interested in going, and many Board members raised their hands, to include elected Board members. Mr. Quigley said we'd try again and work on scheduling.

8. Supervisor Shepperd asked for a motion to extend Tim Faulkner's Board member term for another two years. Mayor Rowe made the motion with Mayor Price seconding it. The Board vote was unanimous to approve. Chair Shepperd then stated the nominating committee of one (him) recommended Mayor Tuck be the next Board Vice Chair. He stated a motion was not needed and asked for a vote to approve Mayor Tuck as the next Vice Chair. The Board voted unanimously to approve.
9. The proposed FY2019 Board meeting dates were presented. Mr. Quigley stated the dates were coordinated with HRTAC as the FY2018 dates had been. He also pointed out the December meeting date was once again moved up a week to December 13 to avoid any conflicts with the holidays. There were no comments or issues with the proposed Board dates.
10. Mr. Quigley then showed a short video from the Hampton Roads Veterans Employment Center being used to advertise the services of the center.
11. Chair Shepperd made comments concerning a recent tour of Joint Base Langley-Eustis (Langley campus) flood mitigation measures which include extensive storm water drainage and pumping systems that can empty an olympic-sized pool every 90 seconds. He also mentioned their shoreline reinforcement efforts, door dams that replace labor-intensive sandbagging to prevent interior damage, and their flood mapping tool that can predict which buildings will flood based on forecasted storm surge. He encouraged the other municipalities to look at these measures and see if they have applicability in their localities.
12. Chair Shepperd then officially passed the Board Chair gavel to Mayor Alexander. Mayor Alexander thanked Mr. Shepperd for his service to HRMFFA as Board Chair over the last year. He thanked the Board for the trust and confidence in him and for the opportunity to be the Board Chair for the coming year and he looked forward to working with everyone in his new capacity.
13. Supervisor Shepperd thanked everyone for attending and for their comments and discussion. He adjourned the meeting at 11:38 a.m.

