

# Minutes from 21 September 2017

## HRMFFA Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting

1. HRMFFA's quarterly Board of Directors meeting was held at the Regional Building in Chesapeake on 21 September 2017. Public Board members present were: Mayors Freiling, Price, Rabil, Rowe and Tuck; Supervisors Sadler and Shepperd; Poquoson City Councilman Southall attended for Mayor Hunt. Private Board members present were: Baugh, Black, Brickell, Curtis, Faulkner, Klett, Paveglio and Watkins. City Manager Doug Smith attended as a non-voting member representing Mayor Alexander. Bob Mathias attended as a non-voting member representing Mayor Sessoms. Perry Bingham 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 1:02 p.m. Mr. Shepperd gave some welcoming remarks. Since this was his first board meeting as the new Board Chair, he provided some information on his background as a retired Air Force Colonel with 30 years of service primarily flying the A-10 Thunderbolt aircraft.
3. Executive Director Quigley welcomed the board and described the three documents at each of their seats: the 2017 *America's Defense Communities* magazine heavily featuring Hampton Roads as a Great American Defense Community award winner; the 2017 Congressional Handbook provided by The Roosevelt Group; and a flyer announcing the NASA Langley Research Center's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open House on 21 October.
4. Mr. Quigley introduced the August financial report to the Board and stated the budget was on track for fiscal year 2018. Mr. Shepperd stated that everyone had a chance to also read the annual audit report that was previously provided to all Board members via e-mail. He stated it was a good audit with no issues noted by the auditors. Unless there were questions, he would move on to the next topic. There were no questions on the audit from the Board members.
5. John Simmons from The Roosevelt Group provided a Washington update:
  - He provided an update on the FY2018 federal budget deliberations and stated a continuing resolution (CR) funding the government at FY2017 levels

- through December 8<sup>th</sup> was passed by Congress and signed by the President. While that does keep the government running, Mr. Simmons noted that it would force agencies to cut back on FY18 spending because of the uncertainty of whether the Budget Control Act caps would return if Congress doesn't repeal or change them. He noted some of the impacts already announced because of the CR, such as the Navy stating it would delay maintenance availabilities of 11 ships due to the CR, which could have an impact on Hampton Roads.
- Mr. Simmons briefed that the McCain-Reed amendment proposing another BRAC round in 2019 did not make it into the National Defense Authorization Act passed by the Senate on 18 September. Because the House of Representatives also did not include BRAC in their bill, the issue is likely dead until 2019 because Congress is unlikely to surface this issue in an election year in 2018. However, he believes it will happen at some point in the future as the effort gained momentum with the discussions this year. That makes it all the more important to continue improving the military value of military installations in Hampton Roads. To help with this effort, HRMFFA was successful in getting language into legislation this year concerning revitalizing the Norfolk Naval Shipyard and the Air Force's training range enterprise plan concerning the Dare County Bombing range and other joint ranges off the coast of Virginia.
- Mr. Simmons mentioned that Rep Jim Bridenstine of Oklahoma had been nominated by the President to become the next NASA Administrator. HRMFFA, NAST and The Roosevelt Group will call on Rep Bridenstine once he is confirmed to discuss NASA Langley Research Center's priorities.
- Mr. Simmons noted that the Florida delegation is still asking the Secretary of Defense to move an aircraft carrier and associated aircraft and escort vessels to Naval Station Mayport. It appears that the Florida delegation will never stop trying to move these assets out of Hampton Roads, making it critical that we do everything we can to maintain unfettered operational effectiveness at Oceana and the Norfolk Naval Station in particular.
- Mayor Rowe asked if Mr. Simmons had any insights as to the Coast Guard's budget in FY18. Mr. Simmons stated there were some good things in the budget such as authorization for procurement of up to six polar icebreakers and that the Coast Guard had escaped drastic cuts that were rumored earlier in the year – but the budget needs to be passed to see these come true. Mr. Quigley noted that the Coast Guard's heroic response to the recent hurricanes had caught the President's attention which should be a good thing for FY19's budget.

6. Executive Director Quigley noted that HRMFFA's December meeting is currently scheduled for 21 December. He asked the Board whether they would prefer to move the meeting up one week to 14 December so as not to conflict with anyone's holiday plans and to stay aligned with HRTAC's Board meeting schedule. Mayor Rowe made a motion to move the meeting to 14 December which was unanimously approved by the Board.
7. Deputy Executive Dwyer briefed the Board on a proposal for creating a HRMFFA challenge coin. Mr. Dwyer went over the background and history of military coins and how they became a part of military culture. He discussed that multiple companies and quotes were sought and an order of 300 coins yielded the most cost-effective order to meet HRMFFA's needs and would cost \$1,191. The coins would be under the control of the Executive Director for distribution by Board members and staff to Federal leaders, supporters of HRMFFA and the Federal presence in the region, as well as Commonwealth and CODEL staffs. Distribution of the coins would be tracked to avoid duplication. Board members could request coins to give to appropriate HRMFFA supporters. Mr. Shepperd also discussed how coins are integral to the military culture and are cherished keepsakes of military members. Mayor Tuck stated the City of Hampton typically produces a coin each year and that their staff had provided some feedback on the coin design. Mayor Tuck made a motion to approve the purchase of HRMFFA coins which was seconded by Mayor Price. The Board unanimously approved the proposal.
8. Mr. Quigley stated he was approached by the Navy League of Hampton Roads about co-sponsoring a local dinner for the new Secretary of the Navy. No details had been worked out yet and timing would depend on the SECNAV's schedule. Goal would be for the event to break even and would not aim to be a revenue generator for either organization. He discussed the importance of ensuring the SECNAV understands the region's strong support for the Navy. The Board agreed to Mr. Quigley having further discussions with the Navy League to begin planning functions for co-hosting a dinner. Mayor Price mentioned the importance of leaders attending such events – including last weekend's Air Force Ball – from both sides of the water, and sending a strong signal of regional support for all of our Federal installations and organizations.
9. During the public comment period, Ms. Donna Sayegh of Portsmouth requested HRMFFA fund a model of the hammerhead crane at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard and provide it to the City of Portsmouth for display. Chairman Shepperd thanked Ms. Sayegh for her comments.
10. Supervisor Shepperd adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m.