

PVA 250 Portsmouth Committee Meeting
200 High St (Suite 201), Portsmouth, VA, 23704

April 10, 2025

Minutes

Present: Keith Toler, Jim Cullen, Karen Washburn, Wendy Mathias, Pam McKittrick, Tom Sasso, Karla Jakubowski, Kristine Troch, Angela Delosreyes, Jacqueline Johnson, Councilman Mark Hugel. Billie Cooke attended by phone.

Absent: Jared Bobzien, Chessie Bray, Dan Shcmit, Dr. Michael Hogan, Cassandra Newby-Alexander, James McCann, Audrey Lassitor

Chair called the meeting to order at 10:05.

Chair's Remarks:

- Apologized for lack of preparation at the February meeting.
- Thanked the group for the award she received and said that it truly belonged to the entire committee that helped bring the Lafayette event to fruition.
- Discussion about the text used on the Road to Revolution signage and a request to meet with Dr. Hogan to discuss further.
- Aaked if anyone knew about the proposed float plane coming to Portsmouth. Keith and Councilman Hugel gave a brief overview.

Report on Post Such as Portsmouth

Tom Sasso provided a written report and made the following comments:

- The event took place at 3 locations, including the Portsmouth Welcome Center, the Art & Cultural Center, and at Red Lion Park.
- The planning committee felt it was a good turnout although some locations saw more people than others. The Art & Cultural Center had the best visitation due to the market and many of those people walked over to Red Lion Park. The Welcome Center saw the least amount of visitation. The total estimated attendance was 1,100 visitors.

- In the years he has done this event, he has never done a cost analysis to this level of detail. The VA250 parent organization requested it and it turns out the cost of the event exceeded \$77,500 and with 1,100 guests, it was about \$70.52 per interaction.
- He noted that there was a great deal of interest in learning more about the Ethiopian Regiment. He is recruiting actors currently for the regiment, ages 8-18. He asked the committee if they knew anyone interested to please refer them.
- He also noted the upcoming lecture on the Ethiopian Regiment by Dr. Cassandra Newby-Alexander the following weekend.

Sail 250

Karen asked if there were any updates on Sail 250 and requested that we get Peter Glagola or someone from Sail 250 to come and address the committee about the upcoming events. Councilman Hugel reported that we had 3 ships committed and that the City was working on the Eagle to return since we are the only Coast Guard City in Hampton Roads. He talked about a vastly expanded Seawall Festival that year and sharing the activities with the Urban League and their Juneteenth event. He also said the city was working with Starbase Victory to develop a S.T.E.M. learning opportunity to be available during the event.

With no other business, there was a motion to adjourn made by Councilman Hugel with a second by Keith Toler. The meeting adjourned at 10:55 AM.