

FRIENDS OF HMCS HAIDA
A Meeting of the Board of Directors
Thursday October 12, 2023
Held Via Microsoft Teams

Present: Jeff Topping	President/Chair
Rick Bialachowski	Director of Governance
Walt Dermott	Treasurer/ Director of Retail Operations
Mike Vencel	Director of Education
Snezana Savic	Director of Public Relations
Joseph Iuso	Director of Communications
Gisela Dermott	Corporate Secretary
Barb Shackleton	Director, Marketing

Regrets: Ken Lloyd, Matthew Venne

Approval of the Agenda

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Motion: To Approve the minutes of the previous meeting. by Rick B, 2nd Walt Dermott. Carried.

President's Remarks

Jeff Topping thanked the board for a great AGM and Volunteer appreciation event held at HMCS STAR. The meeting went well and was appreciated by many.

HMCS HDW will be in Hamilton the week of Nov 13th to deliver the Grey Cup. Planning a HAIDA/HDW tour on Nov 15th details to follow. Jeff will update the board when information is available. Working with Parks Canada to ensure a proper welcome if provided for the arrival of HDW.

Succession Planning – Jeff stated that as a board we need to discuss succession planning, he has been leading the board for 5 years and it will be time for new leadership and ideas to take us into the future. He welcomes discussions from anyone interested.

Treasurer:

Walt reported that the bank statements were not available in time for this meeting and will defer to the next meeting. The accounts, GST, WSIB, payments are current. CRA is asking for monthly payments rather than quarterly which Walt is working through.

Gift shop is holding a fire sale to move the remaining stock of older product. This will make way for the new product featuring the combined ships badges.

Walt shared some excerpts from a war diary that was donated to the museum.

There was some discussion on advertising for the fire sales and featured products.

Communications:

Joseph reported no major changes to the website. Some minor adjustments for \$77.

Public Relations:

Snezana Savic shared her slide used at the AGM showing the numbers of followers from various social platforms. Looking for content to share through the winter.

Marketing – Barb discussed the possible creation of a market brochure to engage visitors, volunteers and supporters. Professionally created, use of QR code to link to website. Great way to promote through hotels etc. Barb will develop a proposal for the board to review.

Education:

Mike Vencel reported that the team was getting ready for remembrance day activities. A dinner is being held at the Halton Navy Club with local high school students.

Governance:

Rick Bialachowski reported that the annual filings were complete and submitted. He reminded the board that any resignations must be received in writing.

Corporate Secretary: No Report.

Motion: To accept the Directors reports. By Gisela Dermott, 2nd Mike Vencel. Carried.

New Business:

Walt – suggested that a discussion be had with Parks Canada to replace the rope work aboard ship. This could be a good project for the sentry program next year.

Rick – has a discussion regarding stolen Valour.

Motion to Adjourn by Walt D., 2nd by Mike V. Meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.

Next Meeting: Thursday November 19, 7:00 PM by Teams.

Jeff Topping
