Virginia Commission on the Bicentennial of the American War of 1812



2013 Chesapeake Bay Tour Subcommittee

Report on the Boat Trip by Senator John C. Miller

Senator Miller was asked to look into the costs of a boat trip from Fort Monroe in Hampton to Fort Story in Virginia Beach and Fort Norfolk in Norfolk and return to Fort Monroe. However, there is no acceptable dock at Fort Monroe. The boat trip would have to originate out of Hampton or Norfolk. There are two companies that can accommodate such a trip. They are the Spirit of Norfolk and Miss Hampton II.

The following are the options from the Spirit of Norfolk:

Tour Date

June 25, 2013 is not a possibility for the Spirit of Norfolk; however, they can accommodate the Commission on June 26, 2013. It is suggested that the Commission commit soon, as other groups are being booked and the price will increase.

Capacity

There are 3 decks. Decks 1 and 2 are inside and Deck 3 is on top of the ship--uncovered.

Deck 1 holds 240 people Deck 2 holds 166 people Deck 3 holds 100 people sitting and 200 standing

Tour Route

Option #1--Spirit of Norfolk

Depart from Fort Monroe- head to Fort Story, Fort Norfolk and return to Fort Monroe Underway Time – 8 Hours -\$8,000 4 Hour Transit Time from Norfolk to Fort Monroe and Back to Norfolk- \$4,000 Security Charge- \$500 (for pier security) Barge Rental- \$5,000 (for docking) Tugboat to follow for Safety Purposes- \$1,200-1,500 Approximate Total Cost- \$20,700

This option is contingent on US Coast Guard's approval for barge placement, docking location and route extension*

Option #2--Spirit of Norfolk

Depart from Norfolk--head to Fort Story, Fort Norfolk, Fort Monroe, and return to Norfolk Underway Time- 7 Hours \$7,000 Tugboat to follow for Safety Purposes- \$1,200-1,500 **Approximate Total Cost- \$8,200**

Again, these are figures for being underway. We can also provide your group with breakfast, lunch, dinner and/or hors d'oeuvres. Complimentary coffee and tea will be provided. A full service cash bar is available and we have several open bar options as well. Once you have established which route option works best for you, we can delve into the costs and options for your meals.

Option #3--Miss Hampton II

Leave from downtown Hampton, since they cannot use Fort Monroe. They can only spend 30 minutes at Fort Norfolk and are not sure if the ship can go to Fort Story. Trip would be from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The ship does not have food on board but meals can be catered for an additional cost. The boat holds 117 persons. The cost of Miss Hampton II is approximately \$6500.

Other Options

The Waterman's Museum has expressed a desire to participate in the Chesapeake Bay Tour. What is the Subcommittee's recommendation to the Commission?