

VETERAN'S MEMORIAL GARDEN ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES FOR December 8, 2017 MEETING

Advisory Council present: Ron Lechner, Chair; Brendan Moore, Vice Chair, Diane Bartels, William Jackson, Mark Orr, Melissa Wilkerson, Claude Freichs, Brice Middleton and Jim Gordon

Advisory Council absent: Melissa Marsh (excused) and Bill Bowman (excused)

Ex-Officios present: Lynn Johnson, Shawn Quinn, JJ Yost and Janet Ball

Ex-Officios absent:

Call to Order:

Ron Lechner, Chair started the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and then noting the Open Meeting Act posted on the wall.

Public Comments: None

Review of Minutes: Diane asked that we add Killed In Training on the 3rd line. Claude asked if anyone had verified the missing names from the Gold Star Family memorial? Lynn said that 20 names were not verified and at this point, it is up to the family to provide the documentation needed to place those names on the monument. Diane said that the dedication was very well done. Mark made a motion to approve the minutes, Brice seconded, voted, unanimously approved.

Committees:

Budget: (See reports) Ron said that the account totals are on exhibit 2A in the agenda. Mark will work with the new Parks Foundation Director, Maggie Stuckey after she starts at Parks to make sure all donations and bricks are accounted for.

Bricks & Landscape:

Mark stated that the Doolittle dedication is scheduled for April 18, 2018 at 7 pm at the Antelope enclosed shelter. It should be a short program. Daniel request that it be kept small and short. The monument must be installed by 3/31/18 or the Rotary Club will pull the funding.

10 year Facilities Plan:

JJ Yost stated that Parks staff met with Vets to form a 10 year improvement plan to identify projects, repairs or replacements needed. They prioritized the list to determine which will receive first, second and third priority to be budgeted. These projects will be updated on the Master Plan for future.

1. Landscaping renovation
2. They need to repair the walk down from Auld to be ADA compliant (A \$7,000 cost)
3. To inspect the brick holders for repair or replacement and cost share this with Parks.
4. Assessment of monuments for structural condition (hired a group from Omaha - Jensen Conservation) Cost of evaluation is \$2,000 cost shared with Parks and Rec.
5. Determine replacing new holders at \$5,000 each (note each holder covers 2 old holders)
6. Restoration of memorials (depending on Jensen findings)
7. Restore and relocate benches
8. Trees and shrubs, next spring, already budgeted
9. Irrigation system, Judson overall assessment within a month
10. Uplight statue, it was wired in place, need \$5,000 funding (maybe move up list)
11. Upgrade electrical service \$10,000

These are part of the 10 year plan and JJ asked the Veterans Memorial Garden group to endorse the plan to take to the Foundation.

Diane wants a sign to have on A Street announcing a Veterans program. Lynn will research this. Jackson made a motion to accept the 10 year plan, Orr seconded, voted: unanimously accepted. Brice request that we move lighting for Lady Liberty up to the top. Melissa suggested talking to Chris Hodge with the Boy Scouts to see if they will help fund raise. Mark asked if the lighting can be done without doing the \$10,000 electrical update. Shawn said it was up to the outlet ability of what is already wired in the Garden. Lynn suggested that we could contact the Community Foundation to see if funds are available.

Events:

Melissa shared a calendar of events. She gave a break down by event of the expenses for each event. Each time the sound system is used, it cost \$350.00. The cardstock or paper used for each event can increase the cost of the programs.

Melissa will meet with Maggie regarding including a Thank you note when sending out payments for services provided for an event, such as Tap and Echo or benediction services. Melissa also stated that she can purchase real estate signs and will donate them to post on A Street and elsewhere to announce an event at the garden. A request to have cards or brochures to hand out at different sites when people ask questions about the garden was raised.

Executive:

An election of officers took place for Chair and Vice-Chair. Ballots were handed out, however Jim Gordon respectfully withdrew his name for Chair. Voting took place by ballot, Dr. Jackson tallied and announced that Ron Lechner will continue as Chair and Brice Middleton will be the new Vice Chair.

More Budget: It was noted that the flag purchase amount should be changed from \$35.00 to 3 x \$35.00 or \$105.00 since 3 flags were purchased. Ron stated that we are checking into purchasing a new pin for the garden. A company from Boston is designing a new one and will present her top 3 designs to be voted on. The verbiage Honor, Inspire and Educate will be used in the design. Cost will be \$3 to \$5 to produce. Melissa said the current pins are \$2.48 each if 300 are ordered.

Melissa was concerned to find that no clergy has been paid. Ron stated that they sometimes donate the fee back to the Garden. Ron will ask the Foundation to check on donations from events. The pins are sent out to acknowledge donations to the Garden. Some are also sold at events for \$5.00 a piece.

Three new flag poles were purchased. Mark found someone to fix the damaged pole for \$20.00. Service flags are being flown all year so spare flags must be kept on hand at all times. Mark also stated that approximately 6 entryway plaques fall of each year and need to be replaced.

Jim Gordon made a motion to accept the budget for 2018; Dr. Jackson seconded, voted approved.

Staff Reports:

Lynn stated that two categories: Killed in Training and Died in Service are not available to public access. So, no way to document eligibility to be on the Gold Star monument. Therefore, we will need to rely on family members to provide the needed documentation to prove eligibility.

Announcements:

After announcement of new officers, Ron released the Nominations Committee. Diane thanked Brendon for all he has done for Vets.

New Committee members:

Events: Melissa W., Melissa Marsh, Diane Bartles, Dr. Jackson and Ron Lechner

Finance: Ron Lechner and Brice Middleton

Bricks & Landscape: Mark Orr, Ron Lechner, Brendan Moore, Claude Frerichs; and Bill Bowman

Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

NOTE:

The next meeting is March 9, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the Antelope Enclosed Shelter.

Future meeting will be every March, June, September and December on the second Friday of the month.