

Veterans Memorial Garden Advisory Council

MINUTES FOR Thursday, December 8, 2022 Meeting

Antelope Enclosed Shelter

3200 Memorial Drive

Lincoln Nebraska

7:00 a.m.

Advisory Council Members Present:

Craig Anderson, Joe Brownell, Thad Fineran, Alexandria Evers, Ricki Barber, Brendan Moore, Marcy Haas, Jim Murphy, Tommy Blanton, Carole Tanner (arrived at 7:19 a.m)

Advisory Council Members Absent:

None

Others Present:

Joyce Peck, Mark Orr

LPR/Lincoln Parks Foundation Staff Present:

Randy Gordon, Maggie Stuckey-Ross, Denise Pearce, J.J. Yost, Chris Myers, Shawn Quinn, Kaylyn Nerverve, and Jamie Granquist

1. Call to Order (roll call) & Introductions:

Joe Brownell called the meeting to order and prompted all attendees to introduce themselves to the group. Everyone in the room provided a brief biography and initial ice breaker conversations were had. Special shout-out from Joe to Mark and Brendan for their history, continuity, and involvement with the Gardens.

Quorum was met with 9 members present.

2. Recognition of Open Meetings Act:

Joe Brownell noted that the meeting is subject to the Open Meetings Act and indicated where the Open Meetings Act notice was posted in the meeting room.

3. Pledge of Allegiance:

Joe asked attendees to head outside as a group and recite the Pledge, overlooking the Veterans Memorial Garden.

4. Approval of Minutes: September 8, 2022:

Thad moved to approve; seconded by Tommy. Motion carried unanimously with 9 members.

5. Public Comments for items not listed on the agenda:

None.

6. Finance Report: Lincoln Parks Foundation

Quarterly Financials

Randy presented the quarterly financials and provided an update on the Bricks of Honor fundraising campaign.

Enduring Honor Campaign

Joe had questions on the 3201 account that if we are \$55,000 short, when would we start the construction process? JJ responded that LPRD has started the process, as staff are confident the Foundation will reach the fundraising goal. LPRD is working with Arrowstone to get the additional holders cast, which has the longest lead time. Sixteen new holders are needed to finish out the project, which will be constructed in one final phase. LPRD has met with Arrowstone a few times and has a quote; LPRD is working through the approval process to contract with Arrowstone. LPRD hopes to be installing in July/August 2023 fall time frame. More than likely, it will be a 2–3-month process of construction. Joe recommended a discussion at next meeting; JJ reported that LPRD will be requesting approval of an amendment to the Master Plan through Facilities Committee before the next VMGAC meeting.

7. Committee Reports

Facilities Committee: No Meeting Held

Denise checked in with the Heyne's in mid-November as to whether they were ready to share construction details and cost estimates for the proposed Naval Aviators Monument. They were not quite ready and are tentatively planning to present at the March Facilities Committee and full Council meeting.

Special "Thank You" to Shawn for purchasing a Space Force flag, which is now flying. Ricki suggested replacing the American flag, as it is looking frayed. Shawn will take care of it. Ricki also mentioned one of the Blue Star Mothers asked him at the Veterans Day event whether handrails could be added to Auld Pavilion front entrance steps. Brendan noted that the access entrance on the south side does not have steps and access is better; perhaps signage might help in this area. J.J. will follow up on these ideas.

Events and Publicity Committee:

Event Debriefs Presented

Veterans Day Parade (organized by Lincoln Veterans parade Group/Veterans Day Parade Committee), Sunday, November 13 at 2pm

Carole noted that we may want to think about marketing with candy and/or flyers with VMGAC information and events for future parades.

Veterans Day (organized by VMGAC), Friday, November 11 at 11 am in Auld Pavilion.

Pearl Harbor Day (organized by VMGAC), Wednesday, December 7 at 11:55 am in Auld Pavilion.

2023 Events: *Please add these events to your calendar!*

Memorial Day (organized by Lincoln Memorial Day Observance Association): Monday, May 29 evening ceremony and typically 8pm

Bricks of Honor Dedication (organized by Lincoln Parks Foundation), Saturday, June 10 at 10 am

Patriot Day (organized by VMGAC and coordinate with City-wide event at State Capitol), Monday September 11; time TBD—**may need to cancel due to construction**

Veterans Day Parade (organized by Lincoln Veterans Parade Group/Veterans Day Parade Committee), November XXX

Veterans Day (organized by VMGAC), Saturday, November 11 at 11am in Auld Pavilion

Pearl Harbor Day (organized by VMGAC), Thursday, December 7 at 11:55 am in Auld Pavilion

Executive Committee:

Election of Officers: Craig and Ricki served on the Nominating Committee and presented (1) one Nomination for Vice Chair: Marcy/Marcy accepted; and (2) one Nomination for Chair: Craig/Craig accepted.

Thad moved to approve the VMGAC Chair and Vice Chair nominations; seconded by Brendan. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Chairpersons and Members (current committee list in packets)

Committee Meeting Schedule

Please let Denise know by the end of the month if you want to switch committees. Please let Craig and Denise know if you are willing to chair a Committee. Denise will send out calendar invites for Committee meetings at the end of the month/first part of January.

Proposed 2023 Budget

Denise reviewed the 2023 Proposed Budget The 2022 Approved Budget was also in packets for members to see what was spent in calendar year 2022.

Denise noted that the 2023 proposed budget is based on the 2022 budget, with a few updates that she reviewed.

The group discussed past member recognition. The Executive Committee asked whether the VMGAC would recognize outgoing members going forward, rather than past members dating back to 2001 or so. LPRD staff noted that if the Council wants to recognize past members, a Council member volunteer would be needed to take the lead on delivering the recognition and helping to track down addresses/contact information of those Jamie cannot find. Craig offered his thought is to go forward, rather than backwards.. Brendan reminded the group that we've had some folks who were only there for one or two meetings. The goal would be to present the recognition at the last Council meeting the member attends, if possible. **Joe volunteered to work on past member recognition. Jamie will get list to Joe of past members.**

Denise noted that \$30/brick sale goes to Programming fund. This year, as seen on line 92 of the last page of the 2023 Proposed Budget, \$1930 is budgeted for programming and \$2190 is available for programming, as noted on line 95: so we are a bit under budget. This is a positive situation as sometimes we have "extra" folks participating in an event to whom the Events Committee wants to provide an honorarium.

Craig moved to approve the proposed 2023 budget; seconded by Jim. Motion carried unanimously.

Special Outreach Committee: No Meeting

Thad reported on a few events he and Chris attended. Thad will follow up with LPRD about advertising Bricks of Honor for Christmas gifts. Denise will connect Aimee/Randy and Thad by email.

8. Announcements

Council vacancy status update

Chris Stokes' term expired at the beginning of November. Chris advised that he is not seeking reappointment due to some other projects and limited capacity. The VMGAC extended its thanks to him for his service.

VMGAC Monument History

LPRD has an intern this year who is working on researching the history of the monuments in the Garden. This process started out with several of LPRD and Committee staff visiting our records storage and spending several hours digging through old boxes of records and scrapbooks of Parks and Rec newspaper clippings. It was great fun! Intern Breanna Epp is now working on copying what she's found, with the goal of organizing the materials by monument.

End of the Year Appreciation. On behalf of the entire Department—thank you! We appreciate all the hours of volunteer time each member puts into the Council, the Garden, and our events. Please enjoy some of the mini bundt cakes, and our thanks for all you do! Happy holidays to you and yours.

9. Adjourn

Next Quarterly Meeting: March 9, 2023, 7am (Antelope Enclosed Shelter, Antelope Park, 3200 Memorial Drive)

Respectfully Submitted:



Jamie Granquist, Recording Secretary