

VETERANS MEMORIAL GARDEN ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES FOR October 13, 2017 MEETING

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

Advisory Council absent: Jim Gordon

Ex-Officio=s present: Lynn Johnson, Shawn Quinn, David Ross JJ Yost and Janet Ball

Ex-Officio=s absent: Jerry Shorney

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. He noted that Jerry Shorney isn't with us today because he is retiring today. Please thank Jerry for all he has done for Parks and Recreation and the Veterans Memorial Garden. He also thanked Lynn Johnson for all he has done for Parks and Recreation and the Veterans Memorial Garden.

Public Comments: None

Introductions:

Ron introduced our guest, Joyce and Maria with the 9-11 Monument

Review of Minutes:

Melissa W. corrected the minutes to say that \$10.00 profit from each brick sale will go into the Programs account and the remaining profits from the brick sales go into future brick maintenance.

*Mark made the motion to accept the minutes as amended, Melissa M. seconded, voted approved.

Committees:

Finance Report

Ron stated that money has been moved into the 3 accounts discussed at the last meeting. He gave a short financial report and will followup with more detail at our December 8th meeting with a full financial report from the Parks Foundation.

Landscape:

Mark Orr announced that the Doolittle Raiders memorial is scheduled to be installed on 3/31/18 and suggest an April 18th dedication. The cement base will be poured when the Post 9-11 base is poured. Discussion took place regarding Contractors that do monuments and the issues we have faced with trying to get monuments completed. Ron stated that it use to be a Ahandshake@ agreement and needs to change to be a contract agreement.

10 year Facilities Plan:

*Melissa made a motion to move this discussion until the December meeting, Dr. J seconded, voted, approved.

Events:

Melissa W. Stated that the Veterans program is scheduled for 11 am. After the program we will move into the 9-11 dedication. The front row seats will be reserved for Gold Star Family members. Brice will be the key note speaker for the celebration.

Diane stated that a volunteer, Jen, with Vietnam Vets paints pictures at the Vietnam wall and donates the profits to the Vets Service Club. Jen is requesting a table to sell the prints at the event.

Thursday, December 7th, Pearl Harbor program is scheduled for 11:55 a.m. We need to set the date for the 2018 programs.

Ron introduced Christie Dionisopoulos and thanked her for all she has done for the Veterans Memorial Garden. Christie will be moving to Wisconsin in November.

Post 9-11 Monument

Ron, Christie and Lynn discussed the placement of names on the 9/11 monument. Lynn stated that issues regarding eligibility to be on the monument have to be addressed. He read the guidelines that have been developed and request that the Board consider adopting them to clarify eligibility.

This monument is for Nebraska based military that have died in action (KIA) or while in military service. The designated Ahome of record@ that the military member designated with the DOD Office will be used as the official record. Ron request that we add killed in training (KIT) designation to the eligible people list. Post humorous rank titles will be considered if they can be verified. Especially since these names ARE set in stone, granite, they must be accurate. We must be able to verify with the Nebraska Veteran Affairs and DOD. A form DD214 is needed for verification. We have to be steadfast and make no exceptions to the rules, as these records become APublic@ records to use.

Christie stated that she has a list of 11 names that are NOT on the Nebraska Department of Military listing as KIA and cannot be verified. Christie is to get verification from the Nebr. DOD office today. In the meantime, she has halted the etching on the granite at Trump Memorial until Monday, October 16th. The inscription will include: name, rank and date of death.

Ron suggested a cutoff date and suggest that a brick be made for the 11 individuals to give us time to investigate the eligibility of the individuals.

Names will be inscribed on the front and then carried over to the back. There is space for 233 names. When full a brick holder will be filled. Diane suggested placing bricks on the ground when the monument is full and was told that Vets don't want people walking on the bricks so placing them on the ground is a bad idea. It was suggested to place a brick holder close to the monument to add bricks to.

*Mark made a motion to accept the guidelines for the 9-11 monument, Dr. Jackson seconded, voted, 1 no, 9 yes, motion carried.

Lynn stated that we met in January to determine which names are selected. He apologized that it took this long to finalize the details and that we must be able to verify with DOD to have documentation as to why each name is listed. In the future, family members must provide documentation to validate placement of names on the monument. The paperwork will be returned to the family. Melissa W. advised us of the fact that one wrong or misspelled name is an \$8,000.00 mistake to replace the granite and start over.

After we have received the list promised by the DOD today, a letter will be sent to any of the families

along with a brick form if necessary, that cannot be placed on the monument.

*Dr. Jackson made a motion to create bricks at no cost to family for any of the 11 that cannot be on the holder. Brice seconded, voted motion carried.

Executive:

We need to establish a nominating committee to get a slate of names for the offices of Chair and Vice Chair for 2018. Currently, Ron is Chair and Brendon is Vice Chair. Dr. Jackson volunteered to be on the committee. Ron appointed Bill Bowman and Diane Bartles to be on the committee.

Each committee is to be prepared with the cost estimate for their committee to be put on the budget for 2018. This will be prepared in December.

Staff Reports:

Waiting on inscription on the 9-11 monument.

Announcements:

Gaylon said that the Vietnam Vet reunion meeting was great and thanks the VMGAC for their help. Melissa W. Thanked Parks and Recreation for placing Lady Liberty in the garden and for a great job! Mark also thanked Parks and Recreation, SE District for the great job on removing the graffiti from the damaged monuments and bricks.

Diane reminded us of the Wyuka program AWreaths across America@ on December 16th at 11 a.m.

Lynn Johnson thanked Maria and Joyce on their work on the Post 9-1-1 monument.

Adjourn: meeting adjourned 10:44 a.m.

NOTE:

The next meeting is DECEMBER 8, 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.