

VETERAN'S MEMORIAL GARDEN ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES FOR March 9, 2018 MEETING

Advisory Council present: Ron Lechner, Chair; Brendan Moore, Vice Chair, Diane Bartels, William Jackson, Mark Orr, Claude Ferichs; Bill Bowman; Jim Gordon

Advisory Council absent: Brice Middleton; Melissa Marsh, and Melissa Wilkerson

Ex-Officio's present: Lynn Johnson, Chris Myers, JJ Yost, Sara Hartzell, Jocelyn Golden and Janet Ball

Ex-Officio's 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. Janet read a "roll call" attendance.

Board Training by Jocelyn Golden, Attorney: Jocelyn Golden, Assistant City Attorney, visited to give a little update on "Meeting Procedure for Parks and Recreation Boards" She is pleased with Ron's acknowledgement of the "Open Meetings Act" and the need for a quorum for the Board to vote on any action item.

Jocelyn reminded us of the fact that ANY e-mail or text can be requested as a public record. Also, any meeting that hosts a quorum of Board members is subject to the Open Meeting Act and is considered Public Record. Just a reminder to keep discussion of Board business in front of the Board. She (Jocelyn) stated that she is available to answer any questions that might come up. Thank you Jocelyn!

Introduction of Guest: JJ Yost introduced Sara Hartzell with the Planning & Construction Section of Parks and Recreation. As part of some recent administrative reorganization, Sara will be serving as our Department coordinator for the VMGAC, welcome Sara!

Ron also introduced and welcomed Keith Fickenscher and Beech Dale, previous Board Chair and members. He also introduced Maggie Stuckey and Coley Bargen with the Lincoln Parks Foundation. Maggie is the "new Christie" and is the Director of the Foundation and will work with the Council members with financing.

To commemorate 15 years of the Gardens existence, Keith read his remarks from the November 10th, 2003 dedication of the Garden. It still is a very moving speech, thank you Keith!

Review of Minutes: Jackson made a motion to approve the December minutes, Orr seconded, voted, minutes approved

Public Comments:

Gaylen Young shared a photo from 6/2/1989 of the moving Vietnam wall.

Committees:

Finance: Ron stated that he has met with the LPF yesterday and sorted finances. Documentation was presented, however there appears to be a discrepancy. Lynn stated that it will get sorted out. Discussion took place regarding moving \$10.00 per brick into the Events fund. The rest of the brick profit will go into the endowment fund.

Landscape/Bricks: Mark said he would like to thank Melissa, Maggie and Diane for their organizing of the Doolittle dedication event. JJ reports that the granite pieces are being shipped to Lincoln for Trump Memorial to engrave. They have been working with Daniel to get the correct names engraved. The dedication is still on

for April 18th. Maggie shared a printed “Check list” for the program. Claude suggested talking to history teachers at Lincoln Schools to do a history lesson on Doolittle Raiders and bring students to the event. Jackson asked if there is an Army monument, Ron replied no. Jackson will be talking to someone regarding a memorial for Army.

JJ reports that an assessment of the memorials and brick holders is scheduled to be done this spring. The City has entered into two contracts that will be cost/shared between Parks and the VMGAC: (1) JEO Consulting for an assessment of the concrete brick holders (\$5,611.00) and (2) Jensen Conservation, an Omaha company that restores public art to check the monuments, for assessment of the memorial monuments (\$2,000.00). This will help with future repair and replacement.

JJ discussed removal of 13 Crab trees in the garden. Shawn Quinn has completed a metal detecting search for any hidden plaques. None have been found. Lynn Johnson acknowledged that the request for removal of the trees should go to the Landscape Committee first and then to the Council. Since the Migratory Bird Act is in effect as of April 1st, time is limited to get the trees removed within the next 3 weeks. Shawn stated that the plan is to replace trees over the next few years. Discussion took place as to why each individual tree should be removed. Some due to crowding by other trees, some block the garden lights and/or flag pole Mark made a motion to accept and approve the removal of the City designated trees, Bill Bowman seconded, voted, approved.

Diane request that the replacement trees have some “color” for the beauty of trees against the green background. Lynn stated that he will work with landscapers for replacements to be planted in the fall.

Mark suggested changing the font (size of print) on the bricks and decreasing from 18 characters to 16 per line for 3 lines. The contract with the brick company renews in July. Mark communicates with each new brick purchaser and advises them of the fact that if there is room on the mural it will be installed on the mural. If no room on the mural the brick will be on a new brick holder. Purchasers may choose to go with the new brick holder or have their money refunded.

Events & Publicity: Melissa Willkerson told Ron that she would like to step down from such an active role on this committee. Dr. Jackson volunteered to replace her.

Diane discussed the Doolittle dedication and who should be invited to attend. She also discussed the 2018 Memorial Day program on 5/28/18. Ron stated that Riley Davis music will be used for Memorial Day.

Executive Committee: Ron stated that he thinks the Veterans need their own web-page along with the site on the Parks page to help people find the Veterans information. He asked people to talk to him if interested in setting up a site.

Discussion regarding the new pin design took place. Ron shared a “mock up” of the pin and pointed out the verbiage “Honor, Inspire and Educate” were highlighted. Ron suggested discussing funding for the pins at the June meeting. Ron asked everyone to attend the Doolittle dedication.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am

Respectfully submitted:

Janet Ball, Recording Secretary

Ron Lechner, Chairman