

VETERAN'S MEMORIAL GARDEN ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR June 11, 2020 Meeting
Parks and Recreation Department, 3131 O Street, Suite 300
Access via Zoom software provide for this meeting
7:00am

Advisory Council Members Present: Craig Anderson, Marcy Haas, Joe Brownell, Claude Frerichs, Thad Fineran

Advisory Council Member via Zoom: Mark Orr, Melissa Wilkerson, Brendan Moore

Advisory Council Absent: None

Others Present: Diane Bartels, Joyce Peck

LPR/Lincoln Parks Foundation Staff Present: Lynn Johnson, Chris Myers, Shawn Quinn, David Ross, J.J. Yost, Maggie Stuckey, Roy Rivera, Denise Pearce, Kaylyn Neverve

1. - Call to Order (roll call) & Introductions – Joe Brownell called the meeting to order. Introductions were made. Quorum was established. Members present via Zoom were not included for quorum purposes. Brownell expressed gratitude for everyone's attendance, both in person and via Zoom.

2. – Recognition of Open meetings Act – Joe Brownell noted that the meeting was subject to the Open Meetings Act and indicated where the Open Meetings Act notice was posted in the meeting room.

3. –Pledge of Allegiance -- All stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

***4. – Approval of Minutes: March 12, 2020** – Roll call was taken and quorum was established with advisory council members physically present. Approval of the prior meeting's minutes was moved by Anderson and seconded by Haas; the motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

5. – Public Comments for items not listed on the Agenda -- No public comments.

6. – Finance Report: Maggie Stuckey, Lincoln Parks Foundation

Stuckey shared with the group that there were few expenditures the last couple of months. Due to market volatility, the Parks Foundation lost 16% of investment funds in Q1 but is already gaining it back. There was a 15.57% loss during Q1 and a \$40,000.00 loss in VMGAC accounts, but again—the market is already gaining it back.

7. – Committee Reports

a. Facilities Committee: JJ Yost

i. Status of work on WW II and pre-1900 Bricks of Honor monuments: Yost informed the group that the concrete work for the plaza was poured two weeks ago. The plaza and the new sidewalk have been installed. The center piece was re-installed and cleaned, the new holders are being fabricated. The re-installation of new holders is anticipated to start the following week. Lincoln Parks and Recreation (LPR) still anticipates that the work will be complete by the July 4, although COVID may impact that schedule.

Pearce and Stuckey will coordinate in updating the Brick of Honors Directory on the website. All bricks—including the newly ordered bricks and the bricks being re-installed—will be placed at the same time. The Bricks of Honor Ceremony may be postponed until later in the year or next year.

Brownell reminded the group that he would like to setup tours at the VMGAC, and the group can expect to hear about this item in the next couple of weeks.

ii. **Benches-Pending.** This issue remains pending and will be re-visited after the VMGAC tour of the Garden takes place.

iii. **Flowchart re: New Monuments, Memorials and Elements in the Garden** - Johnson walked members through the flowchart, which as provided via email before the meeting with paper copies available at the meeting. Johnson stated that LPR would be available to provide guidance to interested parties.

b. Events and Publicity Committee: Denise Pearce

Brownell asked if there were any updates regarding the current Directed Health Measures. (DHM). The new DHM went into effect on June 1st, and Johnson reviewed the relevant provisions. He noted the DHM may change later in the summer. The group agreed that an VMGAC-sponsored events would need to comply with applicable DHMs and that the capacity in outdoor spaces would generally be higher.

i. Events Schedule for 2020

ii. Discussion regarding Event Format

The discussion focused on the Patriot Day Event and whether to hold the event in-person virtually. The group agreed that applicable Directed Health Measures and public gathering restrictions should guide the conversation. It was noted that the Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department has developed an Event Survey that event organizers are encouraged to utilize in developing event safety plans. The consensus was that the Events Committee should not yet make a decision regarding the format of the event, as the event is still three months away and much could change. Pearce indicated she would connect with LPD and LFR, who organize the Patriot's Day ceremony at the Capitol, to see whether the ceremony would proceed. Pearce will then follow up with the Events Committee regarding next steps. Brownell suggested the Events Committee should decide by July 15 whether the Patriot Day event would proceed and in what format. Quinn noted that the occupancy for Auld Pavilion is 250 persons by fire code. The other events were tabled for discussion during the September meeting.

iii. Discussion of Flags

Orr will continue setting up flags in the Garden. If he is unable to do so, he will let Quinn know at least 5 days in advance so LPR can set up the flags. If anyone would like to take over this responsibility, please let Orr know. The Events Committee will need to let Orr know at least a week in advance whether they want flags set up for a particular event.

c. Executive Committee – Joe Brownell, Lynn Johnson, Denise Pearce

i. Meeting schedule – There was discussion regarding future meeting locations and format. It was noted that the State Legislature may consider changing the law to allow virtual meetings of public bodies like the VMGAC. Future meeting locations and formats will be determined based on direction from City Law and DHMs.

ii. Veterans Art Show – The event was rescheduled to 05-22-2021.

iii. Strategic Planning Meeting –The group decided to postpone this meeting until members are comfortable attending the meeting in person and Directed Health Measures permit such meetings.

iv. Board Vacancies – Pearce will follow up with the Mayor's Office regarding vacancies. Members were encouraged to let Brownell know if they have any candidates in mind for the three VMGAC vacant seats.

v. Nominating Committee – The Committee will be contacting current members to gauge their interest in serving as an Officer. Anderson volunteered to head the Nominating Committee; Haas and Frerichs also agreed to serve on the Committee. According to the bylaws, the Nominating Committee will present a slate of officers at the September meeting, with the vote on officers then occurring at the December Annual Meeting.

vi. **Amendment to Bylaws—Article IX:** Pearce noted that the proposed bylaw change was emailed to members before the meeting, and copies were also available at the meeting. The proposed amendment will be on the September meeting agenda for a vote. (See attached proposed bylaw change.) Ultimately, the City Council will also need to vote on the bylaw change, per City law.

8. Announcements

- a. Updated VMGAC Materials – Pearce provided the group with the updated Committee list and Contact list.
- b. Frerichs informed the group that he is available to volunteer at community events where the VMGAC may want to engage in outreach efforts regarding the Garden.
- c. Stuckey informed the group that final brick order is 47.

9. Adjournment: A motion was made by Anderson and seconded by Haas to adjourn the meeting, the motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Roy Rivera, Recording Secretary

Joe Brownell, Chairman