

VETERAN'S MEMORIAL GARDEN ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR September 10, 2020 Meeting
Parks and Recreation Department, 3131 O Street, Lower Level Training Center
Access via Zoom software provided for this meeting
7:00 am

Advisory Council Members Present: Mark Orr, Craig Anderson, Brendan Moore, Claude Frerichs, Thad Fineran

Advisory Council Member via Zoom: Marcy Haas, Joe Brownell, Melissa Wilkerson

Advisory Council Absent: None

Others Present: Diane Bartels, Joyce Peck, Chris Stokes

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

1. - Call to Order (roll call) & Introductions –Craig Anderson called the meeting to order. Quorum was established. Members present via Zoom were not included for quorum purposes and will not/did not vote on action items. Introductions were made. Chris Stokes, candidate for appointment to VMGAC visited and introduced himself to the group.

2. – Recognition of Open meetings Act – Craig Anderson 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. – Approval of Minutes: June 11, 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 Orr and seconded by Fineran; the motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

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

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

Stuckey distributed the latest financials to the group. Tributes and memorials requests have increased and as of the end of August, the Lincoln Parks Foundation had 23 brick orders for 2021. They 47 brick orders for 2020. Regarding account balances, there were significant losses during Q1 but were able to regain all those funds on Q2.

6. – Committee Reports

a. Facilities Committee: JJ Yost

i. Yost provided the group with an update regarding the WWII brick holders. The new holders are being fabricated; fabrication slowed down due to COVID 19 and reduced staffing. 75% of the brick holders have been fabricated and by the end of September all the fabrications should be complete. Another contractor will work on the installation along with support from the Parks and Recreation staff.

Installation should be completed in October or the first half of November. Weather is factor for the timeline. The plan is for completion of the project before Veterans Day. Tours of the VMG for the Advisory Council are being coordinated by Brownell and Yost. There was request made for the group to reach out to Brownell and Yost to RSVP to one of the available dates.

ii. Yost indicated that the new recognition plaques are in motion to be fabricated for the archway to replace plaques that keep coming off. A rendering of the new recognition plaques was shown to the group. Pearce noted that Parks and Foundation staff would be working on updated guidelines regarding the archway. The guidelines will ultimately come to the Council for review.

iii. Pearce shared with the group that both the Parks Department and the Foundation have been receiving inquiries regarding the change to new brick material. Stuckey, Pearce and Johnson worked on bullet points that could be provided to persons that inquire about this change in material. The bullet points were distributed to the group. The group discussed posting the information on the website. Pearce will follow up with Stuckey and others on that point.

b. Events and Publicity Committee: Marcy Haas & Melissa Wilkerson, Chairs

i. Haas shared that for Patriot Day, Brownell and others plan to place a wreath in the Garden at 7:46am for those who can attend. LFR, LPD and the County Sheriff's office will record a remembrance ceremony that will air on LNKTv. Orr and his team placed flags in the Garden for Patriot Day.

ii. Pearce shared that the parade Veterans Day Parade, scheduled for Sunday, November 8 at 2 pm is still on, although the format may need to be modified. The organizer was still encouraging parties to register and will keep us updated if anything changes. Brownell will register the VMGAC to be a participant in the parade.

iii. Veterans Day (organized by VMGAC), Wednesday, November 11 at 11 am in Auld Pavilion – A meeting of the Events Committee will be scheduled to plan for Veterans Day.

iv. District Court Anticipated use of Auld – Myers shared with the group that the District Court approached the Parks and Recreation Dept. with a request to use the Auld Pavilion for jury selection and cases. The Department agreed to allow the courts to use the Auld starting at the end of September through mid-December. Rivera has it worked out so that there are no conflicts between VMGAC Auld reservations and court use of the Auld.

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

i. Anderson noted that the VMGAC has one more quarterly meeting to be held on December 10th at 7 am, which will more than likely be held at the Woods Park Place Lower Level Training Center, or the Large Conference Room on the 3rd floor.

ii. The Strategic Planning Meeting has been postponed and not set date at this moment. It was discussed amongst the group that the meeting could potentially take place during the months of January or February. It was noted that it would be best to hold the Strategic Planning meeting before updating the 10-year plan, which will be updated in Spring/Summer 2021.

iii. Board Vacancies – Stokes' City Council appointment will be discussed at the City Council meeting on September 28th, leaving two vacancies remaining. Pearce shared that the Council did receive approval from the Mayor's Office to reach out and encourage individuals to apply. Please let Pearce and Brownell about potential candidates.

iv. Nominating Committee for Board Officers: Anderson informed that group that we have several nominations for Brownell to remain as Chair. Brownell has accepted the nomination. Anderson was nominated to remain as Vice-Chair and accepted the nomination. Officers will be elected during the December meeting.

v. Amendment to the By-Laws – Article IX – Pearce shared the proposed amendment with the group. The amendment would modify the bylaws so that the VMGAC is able to approve bylaw changes, without submitting such changes to the City Council for approval. A motion was made by Orr to approve this amendment; seconded by Frerichs; the motion was unanimously approved via roll call vote.

vii. Discussion re: Candle Shields for Memorial Day 2021 – Bartels presented the group with two options for candle shields. The samples have different prices. One option is about .80 cents and the other one is .65 cents with the purchase of a 100, online. Discussion amongst the group focused on purchasing disposable candle shields or a permanent set. Discussion will be referred to the Executive Committee's upcoming Budget meeting.

7. Announcements

Bartels shared with the group information regarding Wreaths Across America in Lincoln, NE. It has been in effect since 2010, and it takes place at Wyuka Cemetery. Donations are sought for the purchase of wreaths. Wreaths are \$15.00 each or \$30.00 for three wreaths. The wreaths are to remember those who have given their lives to their country or who have died after their service. The Wreaths Across America program is Monday, December 14,th tentatively schedule in the Warner Chamber, State Capitol at 11 am. The program is 30 minutes long, which includes music and a presentation of a 30-inch wreath. There is a second program at Wyuka Cemetery the following Saturday, December 19th at 11 am. Purchasing wreaths for specific veterans can be done by contacting Bartels. The objective is to have enough wreaths for the Three Soldier Circles. Checks can be made it to: Wyuka Historical Foundation. The deadline to provide the money is the Monday prior to Thanksgiving, the 23rd of November.

8. Adjournment: A motion was made by Fineran and seconded by Moore to adjourn the meeting; the motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Roy Rivera, Recording Secretary