

VETERAN'S MEMORIAL GARDEN ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR June 10, 2021, Meeting
Woods Park Place, 3131 O St., third floor conference room
Access via Zoom software provided for this meeting
7:00 am

Advisory Council Members Present: Chris Stokes, James Murphy, Craig Anderson, Brendan Moore, Marcy Haas, Joe Brownell, Melissa Wilkerson, Claude Frerichs, Thad Fineran

Advisory Council Member via Zoom: None

Advisory Council Absent: None

Others Present: Diane Bartels, Joyce Peck, Mark Orr

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

1. - Call to Order (roll call) & Introductions – Joe Brownell called the meeting to order and did quick introductions. Quorum was met with all nine members present.

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

4. – Approval of Minutes:

December 10, 2020 minutes and March 11, 2021 meeting summary notes – Approval of meeting minutes for both December 10th and March 11th was moved by Anderson and seconded by Moore; the motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

5. – Public Comments for items not listed on the agenda – Claude Frerichs had questions regarding the speaker system used during Veterans Memorial Garden events. Shawn suggested that speakers should be kept at an appropriate volume to the venue to keep feedback at a minimum; additionally, the distance the speaker keeps to the microphone also can affect volume.

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

Maggie Stuckey presented the VMG account balance report for end of April (04/30/2021). The endowment continues to perform well. Jim Murphy added that he met with Maggie to discuss fundraising opportunities. Jim touched base with the Lincoln Community Foundation. The LCF has a planned giving program in which funds are automatically transferred to the Lincoln Parks Foundation upon a donor's death if the donor has designated funds for veterans.

7. – Committee Reports

a. Facilities Committee: Brendan Moore, Chair

i. Ten Year Plan – Brendan Moore noticed the Pre-1900 holders in place, which looked good. Brendan asked what the plan is for donation boxes at the Veterans Memorial Garden. Due to vandalism, other methods such as 'text to donate' and electronic transfers will be encouraged. The donation receptacle will be removed.

J.J. briefly reviewed the 10 Year Facilities Plan, which was first presented to the Council at its March meeting. The document is available upon request. LPR updates the plan ever two years; the last

update was in 2019. The plan was reviewed and edited to reflect items that have been completed and items that still need to be addressed. J.J. request endorsement from the VMGAC for this 10 Year Plan, which if endorsed, is included in the overall facilities plan for the Parks and Recreation Department and ultimately will be adopted by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board later this fall. The plan is a guideline for the budgeting of the Capital Improvement Program – the CIP – and gives the department a look at what direction it is headed in the next 10 years.

JJ noted that the 'A' priorities help determine what needs to be address in preparation of the next CIP. Mark Orr suggested that the additional brick holders should be named different than Bricks of Honor, since all the Bricks in the VMG are Bricks of Honor. Mark recommended that the new holder to be named 'Multi-Conflict'. Joe Brownell also brought up installing additional brick holders along the Vietnam Memorial. J.J. stated that this is something that can be certainly discussed. J.J. also emphasized that is a fluid, guidance document that can be modified after being approved. Claude Frerichs mentioned that he would also like to see an Iraq-Afghanistan section.

Craig Anderson moved to recommend that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board approve the Veterans Memorial Garden section of the 10 Year Facilities Plan, as updated. The motion was seconded by Thad Fineran. The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

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

Marcy Haas mentioned that the Memorial Day event was successful, and it was great to see everyone face to face. The Foundation is looking for volunteers for the Bricks of Honor to assist with reading of the names. Joe Brownell will assist with reading of the names. Maggie Stuckey shared the Bricks of Honor program with the group. Marcy noted that the next Events Committee Meeting will take place in July.

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

i. Strategic Planning Meeting Summary: Denise Pearce addressed the group regarding the Strategic Planning Meeting. A worksheet was sent to the group requesting input regarding priority for upcoming future facilities/projects, events, and outreach. Council Members were asked to categorize Actions by level of importance, costs, and difficulty to implement. The data received was compiled and shared under though the VMGAC Strategic Plan document.

Thad Fineran added that on the area of outreach, he would volunteer to lead the effort for a formal Special Outreach Committee. The decision was made to create a Special, six-month Outreach Committee and determine if the group would like for this committee to become a permanent committee within the Council after the six-month term expires. A motion was set forth by Claude Frerichs to create a six-month Special Outreach Committee, seconded the Thad Fineran; the motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote. Thad Fineran and Jim Murphy will head the committee.

Denise Pearce requested that the group endorse the Strategic Plan as presented. Thad Fineran moved to approve the Strategic Plan as presented, seconded by Craig Anderson: the motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

ii. Fundraising Proposal – Maggie Stuckey and Jim Murphy met regarding fundraising efforts about forty-fives days ago. An idea that came up was to provide a handout which would include documents such as the strategic plan. Jim added that he would go out to businesses and make connections in attempt to raise funds. The goal would be \$250,000.00 from local businesses, or at least pledges to that amount. Joe shared that anyone in the group is more than welcome to reach out to connections that

may be a potential donor; additionally anyone is welcome to share potential donor names with Jim. Fundraising efforts will be coordinated through the Foundation.

iii. Nominating Committee – Craig Anderson, Melissa Wilkerson and Chris Stokes volunteered to be part of the Officer Nominating Committee. A slate of officers for 2022 will be presented at the September VMGAC meeting, followed by a vote on that slate of officers at the December VMGAC meeting.

iv. Future Meeting Locations – Joe Brownell asked the group if there were any concerns in holding meetings at the Antelope Enclosed Shelter. The group decided to hold the September meeting at the Antelope Enclosed Shelter. If anyone feels uncomfortable, future meetings can be held at a different site.

v. Board Vacancies – There are currently two vacancies; names were requested by Joe. Please submit them as soon as possible.

8. Announcements – Shawn Quinn shared with the group information regarding flags and landscaping. Shawn was finally able to connect with a vendor that could supply new service flags. Shawn ordered three flags of each, which are also higher quality. All tree removal that had been planned has been completed as well as shrubbery work. Shawn also mentioned that some of the trees that were removed had memorial plaques placed in the ground. The plaques are stored in case someone asks for them.

Joe Brownell thanked Claude Frerichs for his participation at events providing information about the Veterans Memorial Garden.

9. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned by Brownell at 8:22 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Roy Rivera, Recording Secretary