

VETERAN'S MEMORIAL GARDEN ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES FOR June 9, 2022, Meeting

Antelope Park Enclosed Shelter

3200 Memorial Drive

Lincoln Nebraska

7:00 am

Advisory Council Members Present:

Chris Stokes, Craig Anderson, Brendan Moore, Joe Brownell, Thad Fineran, Marcy Haas, Ricki Barber, Thomas Blanton

Advisory Council Absent:

Alexandria Evers, Jim Murphey, Carole Tanner

Others Present:

Diane Bartels, Joyce Peck, Mark Orr

LPR/Lincoln Parks Foundation Staff Present:

Maggie Stuckey-Ross, Chris Beutler, Chris Myers, Shawn Quinn, J.J. Yost, Denise Pearce, Jamie Granquist, and Kaylyn Neverve.

City of Lincoln Staff Present:

Jocelyn Golden, Attorney City Law Department

1.- Call to Order (roll call):

Joe Brownell called the meeting to order and prompted all attendees to introduce themselves to the group.

Quorum was met with 8 members present.

2.- Welcome & Introductions:

Everyone in the room provided a brief biography and initial ice breaker conversations were had. An updated contact list of all members and frequent attendees was passed around during this introduction discussion and all were prompted to add or correct any phone numbers or emails that may need addressed.

3. – 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.

4. – Pledge of Allegiance:

Joe suggested the attendees take a moment to head outside as a group and recite the Pledge, overlooking the Veterans Memorial Garden.

5. – Approval of Minutes: March 10th, 2022, meeting & summary notes.

Approval of the VMGAC meeting minutes for March 10th, 2022.

Moved to approve by Craig and seconded by Marcy; motion approved unanimously.

6. – Public Comments for items not listed on the agenda:

None.

7. – Board Training: Jocelyn Golden, City Law

a. Annual training re: requirements for public advisory boards: Golden noted that she provides an annual training to all the Parks and Recreation Department-staffed boards and

councils. The training serves as a refresher for longer-term members and as an introduction to board service for new members. Golden provided a document to the group for reference. Golden noted that VMGAC meetings are open to the public. The agenda, previous meeting's minutes and meeting notice also have to be made available to the public. Regarding meeting practice, motions are to be made by a Board Member and seconded by another Board Member; discussion should follow the second, followed by a roll call vote on the motion. Golden emphasized that Board-related business is public record. Golden advised the Board not to discuss Board-related items outside of the meeting or communicate on substantive Board business via text or email. She emphasized that board agenda items should be discussed only during a meeting.

8. – Finance Report: Maggie Stuckey, former Director of Lincoln Parks Foundation and Chris Beutler.

a. . Bricks of Honor monuments campaign—Maggie & Chris Beutler

- i. Have secured \$100,000 for the brick project: \$50,000 from Ameritas and \$50,000 from Lincoln East Rotary.*
- ii. Chris: Have tried to request \$50,000 from different members of the community. It is \$425,000 capital campaign all together. Have fundraised \$100,000 thus far. The Foundation does have a few larger requests still out there.*
- iii. Maggie*
 - 1. Due to market fluctuation—endowment accounts were down significantly during Q1 but are already rebounding.*
 - 2. Honoring 81 individuals with bricks on Saturday, June 11th. Total new bricks: 63. There is variance due to some being replacements & some being new bricks.*
- iv. Joe—would like to discuss what amount we need to fundraise to start construction and prefer to have a plan in place if phasing is needed.*
 - 1. JJ: The biggest challenge with this project will be the casting of the new holders. Arrowstone is the manufacturer—they do a great job, but they are a very small company. It will take time for them as they do the castings piece by piece. Another potential challenge is storage storage as Arrowstone casts and completes pieces, since Arrowstone doesn't have a storage area. Lincoln Parks & Recreation does not have a lot of places to store large items such as these in a secure location. We need to think through staging/interim storage solutions. **Thad thinks we may be able to secure no cost storage, and he will get back to the VMGAC with various options.***
 - 2. A new Bricks of Honor Directory will be printed for Garden per Maggie.*
- v. Joyce mentioned she would like to purchase bricks for veterans who were killed in training. She has about \$8,000 budgeted. These bricks would go through "normal" brick process with Foundation. Mark suggested that if*

Joyce wants these bricks placed together and/or wants the bricks in a particular order in the holders—please indicate so on the order forms.

9. – Committee Reports

a. Facilities Committee: Brendan Moore, Chair

- i. **Discussion**—Adding an inscription for Cpl. Daegan Page to Post 9-11 Monument: *A letter was sent out to Cpl. Page's family in April, with no response as of yet. It was suggested to wait a bit longer for a family response.*
- ii. **Garden Tours**—*A great turnout for the two tours offered, **thank you, JJ!***
- iii. **Space Force flag**—*Shawn reported that the flag previously ordered did not show up. The current vendor has not been responsive of late. Shawn will be looking for another vendor. The flag sleeve is in the work order system for completion.*

b. Events & Publicity Committee, Marcy Haas, Chair:

i. Event Debrief

1. **Memorial Day** (organized by Lincoln Memorial Day Observance Association): Monday, May 30 evening ceremony/typically 8pm. *Diane noted that we did have a contact in the LPR office regarding a name that wasn't read at the ceremony. Diane followed up with that individual regarding the name gathering processes.*

ii. Remaining Events Scheduled for 2022: Please add to your calendars.

1. **Bricks of Honor Dedication** (organized by Lincoln Parks Foundation), Saturday, June 11 at 10 am.
 - a. *Bricks of Honor program is in attendees' packets.*
 - b. *Thad will bring and setup the BOH table.*
 - c. *Veterans Freedom Music Festival will be in Auld and the Bandshell at Antelope Park also. They will start at 11:30, after the Bricks of Honor ceremony concludes.*
 - d. *Two families also have separate events afterwards in Antelope Park: Friendt family & Henry family—from Rogers Nebraska.*
2. **Patriot Day** (organized by VMGAC/coordinate with City-wide event at State Capitol), Sunday, September 11th, time TBD. *Joe mentioned he likely won't be able to attend due to other commitments.*
3. **Veterans Day Parade** (organized by Lincoln Veterans Parade Group/Veterans Day Parade Committee), November 13th, 2022 at 2p.m.
4. **Veterans Day** (organized by VMGAC), Friday, November 11th at 11a.m. in the Auld Pavilion.

5. **Pearl Harbor Day** (organized by VMGAC), Wednesday, December 7 at 11:55a.m. in the Auld Pavilion.

c. - Executive Committee:

New Advisory Council member mentioned to the group, Carole Tanner (not present). *Joe noted that Claude recruited and nominated Carole.*

d. - Special Outreach Committee, Thad Fineran, Chair

- i. **Updates**—*Thad reported that Allie has set up a shared contacts document to work from/Allie helping us manage information. The Committee discussed developing a simple marketing plan. The Committee will also try to put together some metrics for measuring success—is it attendance at events or other yet identified criteria we focus on? Chris is planning to reach out to LPS*
- ii. **Members**—*Mark has offered to be a part of the Outreach Committee—Denise will add to list.*
- iii. **QR Code History Project**—*tabled for now, may see if an intern can be retained to work on the project. There simply isn't the people power right now to tackle such a time intensive effort. There is a link to the shared drive for what LPR has for history of monuments,*
- iv. **Contacts**—*Joe will send Thad a contact & link for a veteran's organization named The Nebraska Veteran's and Family Task Force.*

10. - Announcements:

- a. **APPROVED** 2022 Budget and 2022 VMGAC Meeting Schedule are in packets
 - i. *Also included in the meeting packets is an updated Membership List.*
- b. *Desire was expressed to get back to the former member recognition this summer. The group suggestion and finalized idea landed on a small tile, with funding already included in this year's budget (budgeted \$375 for past members + \$30/year). Some volunteers are needed to assist with research and then delivering the acknowledgements once they arrive. Ricki offered to assist.*

11. - Adjourn:

Call to adjourn at 7:52 am

The next VMGAC board meeting will be Thursday, September 8th at 7:00 a.m. at the Antelope Park enclosed shelter.

Respectfully Submitted:



Jamie Granquist, Recording Secretary