

NOTICE OF ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Veterans Memorial Garden Advisory Council Meeting Agenda

Thursday, June 8, 2023, at 7 am

Location: Antelope Open Air Shelter, Antelope Park (S. 32nd & Veterans Drive)

Please note that those attending the meeting may choose to wear masks/facial coverings.

1. Call to Order (roll call)

VMGAC Members in attendance : Ricki, Carole, Craig, and Brendan. A quorum was not present.

VMGAC Committee members in attendance: Joyce, Diane, Mark

LPRD & LPF Staff in attendance : Maggie, J.J., Denise, Chris, Randy

2. Welcome & Introductions

3. Recognition of Open Meetings Act

Craig noted that the Open Meetings Act was available on the back picnic table.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Craig led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Approval of Minutes: March 9, 2023*

In the absence of a quorum, the March 9, 2023, minutes were not approved and will be carried over to the next meeting.

6. Public Comments for items not listed on the Agenda

Joyce noted that she thought the Memorial Day ceremony was lovely.

7. Finance Report: Lincoln Parks Foundation

Quarterly Financials—Randy shared the quarterly financial reports. He noted that the LPF has sold about 108 bricks this past year. All the bricks that are will be installed are the new style bricks.

Enduring Honor Campaign—This campaign is essentially closed.

8. Committee Reports

A. Facilities Committee: Construction Schedule Update

JJ reported that Arrowstone is now fabricating the new holders. Kaylyn has finished design details for removal and replacement of all the concrete with the holders and will review those final details with the contractor (the same contractor who completed the first phase of construction). This project will give LPRD the opportunity to address drainage issues, improve the general area, and replace part of concrete star that was not done with phase 1.

Demo work will likely start the middle of July. Contractor will then come in in August to do concrete work, which needs to sit 14-21 days to cure. Mid-September is the timeline to install new holders, with the goal to complete construction by Veterans Day. Given this anticipated construction, the Patriot Day ceremony will not take place in the Garden this September. Depending on the construction schedule, LPRD may be able to keep portions of the Garden during construction.

There is no official Garden “shut down” date yet; LPRD is basing the demo time on when Arrowstone will be ready with the brick holders. LPRD will likely have a one or two week notice before shut down; LPRD will do signage in the Garden regarding the project and a press release to keep the public informed.

Brendan discussed tribes involved with Code Talkers. The group discussed a potential Code Talkers monument and outreach to local tribal representatives.

The group discussed accessibility to the Garden via the back parking lots, with JJ noting that this project is on LPRD’s list to address and will include the removal of a large tree. LPRD will add language to press releases about accessibility to Garden/parking in the north lots.

B. Events and Publicity Committee: Event Debrief

- **Memorial Day** (organized by Lincoln Memorial Day Observance Association): Monday, May 29 8pm ceremony
Diane noted that the LMDOA is looking for someone to volunteer to collect the names for this next year. LMDOA has a meeting tonight to discuss this issue. VMGAC Events Committee will then discuss at its July meeting. Brendan mentioned that he may have a contact willing to gather the names.

Ricki gave kudos to Joe for his enthusiastic participation in the singing of the service songs. The group discussed scripting the conclusion of the Memorial Day program for thank you’s/appreciation for those who support our Garden events. Diane noted that those who are part of the Lincoln Memorial Day Observance Association pay dues, and they are listed on the LMDOA program.

Joyce noted it was nice to have VMGAC members and committee members at the event early to greet dignitaries and guests. Ricki suggested trying to include political folks from both political parties. Carole asked about the timing of the Garden Memorial Day ceremony and why is it so late? Diane noted the 8pm start was probably tied to the candlelight ceremony.

Diane noted that Memorial Day is for those who have fallen in service, and that the Committee has been criticized for reading the names of those who died in the past year.

- **2023 Remaining Events:**

- **Bricks of Honor Dedication** (organized by Lincoln Parks Foundation), Saturday, June 10 at 10 am. A decision on event being held inside as opposed to outside will be made by 7:30am, the day of. Bruce T will have traveling artwork display set up inside of Auld Pavilion. Mark Orr will set up the Bricks of Honor table.
- **Patriot Day** (organized by VMGAC/coordinate with City-wide event at State Capitol), Monday September 11; time TBD. Will not have Garden event this year due to construction. It was also noted there is a new LFR lead organizer for the Capitol ceremony.
- **Veterans Day Parade** (organized by Lincoln Veterans Parade Group/Veterans Day Parade Committee), November 12 at 2pm. Craig has looked at website—will register VMGAC.
- **Veterans Day** (organized by VMGAC), Saturday, November 11 at 11am in Auld Pavilion. Ricki, Diane, Denise met with Don Costello last month. The plan is to schedule time with Shawn to visit Auld and figure out where to place the AV equipment. Diane is checking with Kinko's on cost for a photo of General Pershing and whether they will donate services.
- **Pearl Harbor Day** (organized by VMGAC), Thursday, December 7 at 11:55 am in Auld Pavilion. A member of the Sons & Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors will be the speaker.

C. Executive Committee: No report.

9. Announcements

The VMGAC currently has two vacancies.

Marcy had suggested JP Mamaril as a potential member. He applied about 18 months ago. Denise recently emailed him to see if he was still interested, with no response yet. The group was encouraged to let Denise know of other potential candidates and to encourage such candidates to fill out the board/commission application found on the City web page.

10. Adjourn*

The meeting was adjourned shortly before 8am.

*Denotes Action Item. All votes will be taken by roll call vote.

Next Quarterly Meeting: September 14, 2023, 7am (Antelope Enclosed Shelter, Antelope Park, S. 32nd & Veterans Drive)

Respectfully Submitted:



Jamie Granquist, Recording Secretary