

Veterans Memorial Garden Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

June 11th, 2026 at 7:30 am

Antelope Enclosed Shelter

3200 Memorial Dr

Lincoln, Nebraska

Advisory Council Members Present:

Cody Schaaf, Brendan Moore, Chris Maly, Danette Matty, Craig Anderson

Others Present:

Mark Orr, Joyce Peck

LPR/Lincoln Parks Foundation Staff Present:

Mike Comstock, Cameron Mueller, Randy Gordon, Jamie Granquist

1. Call to Order (roll call):

Cody Schaaf called the meeting to order at 7:30am

Quorum was not met with only 5 members present.

2. Welcome & Introductions:

a. New Member

i. Chris Maly

Schaaf opened the floor to brief introductions of attendees around the room.

3. Recognition of Open Meetings Act:

Schaaf recognized that the meeting is subject to the open meetings act and referred the Council to the related poster in the back of the room.

4. Pledge of Allegiance:

Schaaf led the pledge of allegiance inside the building.

5. Approval of Minutes: March 12th, 2026 *

Quorum was not met, voting item moved to next meeting.

6. Public Comments for items not listed in the Agenda:

Cody Schaaf offered that he has been working with a videographer for taking some videos of events and then a quick blurb of each monument & catches some of that historical data & posted on YouTube. Good content, basic for \$600-\$800 estimate.

Purpose to market the Memorial Garden so people can see what is here and recognition of the monuments and vets as a whole.

Chris Maly mentioned that there is an opportunity called "Husker Parking Lot" fundraiser that can generate a lot of attention and get the funds raised quickly. Mark Orr mentioned that there is a request for a speaker at the Rotary, asking for volunteers. He also updated that the LPS project is moving forward, working on content and production processes ahead. Cody mentioned the group was going to focus on 3 monuments, but timeframe video wouldn't be long enough, so working on more monuments to make it the 20 minutes requirement. More to come.

7. Finance Report: Lincoln Parks Foundation

a. Quarterly Financials

Randy Gordon updated the Committee for the Financials. Provided a handout that outlined multiple funding buckets: Veterans Fund, Veterans Programs, Veterans Endowment, and Veterans BOH Scholarship Fund. 53 bricks (inscriptions) this year, 59 is shown but after review, some folks donate money and do not want a brick but just donate to the cause. Randy highlighted that we will have the first Canine brick in quite a while, Johnny. Ceremony will be recorded as the handler may not be able to make it due to medical issues. Randy also noted that the Directory will be updated to merge all names into alphabetical order and update photos for monuments and also added a QR code for online usability.

8. Committee Reports

a. Events and Publicity Committee:

i. 2026 Events: Please add these dates to your calendar!

- 1. Memorial Day** (organized by Lincoln Memorial Day Observance Association): Monday, May 25 evening ceremony/typically 8pm. Reviews were good, weather was great and flow went well. Attendance was good.
- 2. Bricks of Honor Dedication** (organized by Lincoln Parks Foundation), Saturday, June 13 at 10 am. Watching the weather as it might move into Auld due to rain.
- 3. Patriot Day** (organized by VMGAC/coordinate with City-wide event at State Capitol), Thursday September 11; time 10 AM
- 4. Veterans Day Parade** (organized by Lincoln Veterans Parade Group/Veterans Day Parade Committee), November 15th
- 5. Veterans Day** (organized by VMGAC), Tuesday, November 11 at 11am in Auld Pavilion
- 6. Pearl Harbor Day** (organized by VMGAC), Sunday, December 7 at 11:55 am in Auld Pavilion

Mark Orr updated the group that it would be great to have help putting the flags up for events, promotional event signs that are posted on the busy intersections prior to events, and volunteer to help with other procedures that the Garden needs throughout the year. Cody mentioned that the ROTC might be able to assist. Mike to organize an email and outline what Mark does and when, where holders and supplies are, when flags get placed, etc. Mark to write out the process and Mike to share with the group.

b. Facilities Committee:

Canine Monument is installed, still some landscaping to complete but looks good.

Navy Armed Guard is still to be done, this should be the only redesign left to work through, Foundation has bricks for the redesign whenever that occurs. Bricks were ordered when the major redesign was done. Black Soldiers also needs redesigned as they also have those bricks as well.

c. Executive Committee:

9. Announcements:

a. 1 Council Vacancy

Mike mentioned if you know anyone, please have them apply.

b. 4 terms ending 11/1/2026

James Murphy, John Mamaril, Brendan Moore, Craig Anderson expiring.

Mike reported that VMGAC currently has

10. Adjourn *

Cody adjourned the meeting at 8:08 am.

**Next Quarterly Meeting: September 10th, 2026, 7:30 am (Antelope Enclosed Shelter,
Antelope Park, S. 32nd & Veterans Drive)**

Respectfully Submitted:



Jamie Granquist, Recording Secretary