

## **Veterans Memorial Garden Advisory Council**

### **Meeting Minutes**

March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 7:30 am

Antelope Enclosed Shelter

3200 Memorial Dr

Lincoln, Nebraska

**Advisory Council Members Present:** Brendan Moore, Craig Anderson, Joe Brownell, James Murphy, John Mamaril.

**Others Present:** Joyce Peck, Diane Bartles, Dănette Mătty

**LPR/Lincoln Parks Foundation Staff Present:** Maggie Stuckey-Ross, J.J. Yost, Mike Comstock, Randy Gordon, Shawn Quinn, Cameron Mueller, Jamie Granquist

#### **1. Call to Order (roll call):**

Brendan Moore, Craig Anderson, Joe Brownell, James Murphy, John Mamaril

**Quorum was met with 5 members present.** Carol Tanner arrived at 7:37am.

#### **2. Welcome & Introductions:**

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

#### **3. Recognition of Open Meetings Act:**

Craig 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:**

Craig led the pledge of allegiance outdoors overlooking the Gardens.

#### **5. Approval of Minutes: December 12, 2024 \***

Carole moved approval; Jim seconded. Passed unanimously.

#### **6. Board Training: Jocelyn Golden, City Law**

Jocelyn provided the annual Board training and updates. The Open Meetings act requires meetings at a publicly accessible location in a publicly funded location & be given an opportunity to speak. Agenda posted and notice must be posted prior. Minutes recorded and Action items and roll call votes after 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> motions. Operating Bylaws are followed. Public Records Laws require discussion can only

happen during meetings, requests do happen and personal conversations regarding business can be requested so reminders to keep business during meetings is important. New for 2025 is Public Comments opportunity each meeting at the end.

#### **7. Election of Officers \***

Craig presented the slate of officers: Craig was nominated for Chair and Joe was nominated for Vice Chair. No other nominations were made. Craig moved to have Joe serve as Vice Chair; Carol seconded. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote. Joe then moved to have Craig serve as Chair, Jim seconded. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

#### **8. Finance Report: Lincoln Parks Foundation**

**Quarterly Financials:** Randy overviewed the Lincoln Parks Foundation financial report & Brick of Honor sales summary via handout with the group. Current balances and transfers are on track for normal spring processes.

#### **9. Committee Reports**

##### **a. Facilities Committee: Construction Schedule Updates**

J.J. reports they meet a week ago about the renovation of the K9 Memorial. It is in need of maintenance and replacement honor bricks were ordered previously when bricks were being sourced for replacing all the brick holders throughout the garden. A review of the plans summarized as the idea to the monument further back from the walk and elevate it on a concrete pad. The new brick holder will be angled for better viewing and to discourage people from stepping on them. Brick holder will be created by the same manufacturer as the other brick holders for continuity in its appearance. There will be multiple blank spaces so that honor bricks can be added over time and the area will have enhanced landscaping around the perimeter. The plans are still conceptual, but a draft schematic was provided. The group asked questions on how a K9 qualifies for an honor brick to be placed in the blank spaces and better promotion of the space was mentioned as something the Committee would like to see.

Research on qualifications for such a placement, defining what is consider a military service dog.

##### **i. K9 Memorial Renovation Proposal\***

The Committee voted to endorse the concept presented for renovation of the monument so staff can proceed with design and ultimately construction.

Carole moved approval; Jim seconded. Passed unanimously.

**b. Events and Publicity Committee:**

Mike updated that the Events Committee hasn't had meeting in a couple months, but Memorial Day planning processes are being coordinated. Diane mentioned that they are looking for music, if anyone knows, please let her know by April as they will have the next events meeting right afterwards. The Event Committee asked to remain on site after Vets meeting for some quick updates on a few key items.

**i. 2025 Events: Please add these dates to your calendar!**

1. **Memorial Day** (organized by Lincoln Memorial Day Observance Association): Monday, May 26 evening ceremony/typically 8pm
2. **Bricks of Honor Dedication** (organized by Lincoln Parks Foundation), Saturday, June 7 at 10 am
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 XXX
5. **Veterans Day** (organized by VMGAC), Tuesday, November 11 at 11 am in Auld Pavilion
6. **Pearl Harbor Day** (organized by VMGAC), Sunday, December 7 at 11:55 am in Auld Pavilion

Craig asked for interest in walking in the Veterans Day Parade and if the group wants to sign up. Joe requested that Craig submits the application and as we move closer to the date, if attendance looks low, to withdrawal the request. Craig agrees to put the application in and will ask for volunteers.

Joyce asked about Patriots Day and the State Capitol processes, and the group clarified that it was Fire Station 1 and is a City-wide event process, not one the VMGAC directs but simply supports.

Craig mentioned it might be smart to pick three events to attend and help with in order to educate attendees about the Gardens and staff the bricks table station for sharing the load.

**ii. LPS Collaboration Report**

Diane gave a brief update about the Veterans Memorial Garden History Project with LPS Communications & The Doolittle Raiders is moving forward. Emails have been exchanged, and the group is positive about next steps with processes they are making.

**c. Executive Committee:**

None.

## **10. Public Comments for items not listed on the Agenda:**

Carole asked about Bricks of Honor table handout and bricks not quite lining up with options. Randy noted that 3 lines typical, 4th line is conflict specific and not "option" to choices. 4th line is for Bricks of Honor holder that doesn't have the conflict holder specific to that location. 4th line is new due to how they are being made(lasers) vs die stamps. Single branch of service vs multiple branches of service and if someone wants more than one brick.

Nothing is full yet, although some are close, and staff will have a report for next meeting about spaces remaining for each holder. Post 911 changes the dynamic of the line 4 possibility, and the Committee appreciated the options and reasoning provided.

## **11. Announcements:**

### **a. Council vacancies**

Joe asked about openings, three are open for the Council at this time. The Mayor makes the appointments and LPRD provides consideration for the applications submitted. Joe would like the Committee to be aware of the nominees but there is not a process for that at this time and the Mayor's office will let Mike know once selections are made for appointments. He will update as identified.

## **12. Adjourn \***

Brendan motioned to adjourn; Jim seconded. Craig adjourned the meeting at 8:32am.

**Next Quarterly Meeting: June 12th, 2025, 7:30 am (Antelope Enclosed Shelter, Antelope Park,  
S. 32<sup>nd</sup> & Veterans Drive)**

Respectfully Submitted:



Jamie Granquist, Recording Secretary