

VETERAN'S MEMORIAL GARDEN ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES FOR January 8, 2016 MEETING

Advisory Council present: Ron Lechner, Chair; Brendan Moore, Vice Chair, Diane Bartels, Dan Petersen, William Jackson, Mark Orr and Melissa Marsh

Advisory Council absent: Bill Bowman (excused) and Garry Morgan

Ex-Officio's present: Jerry Shorney, Lynn Johnson, Shawn Quinn, David Ross and Janet Ball

Ex-Officio's absent:

Call to Order:

Ron Lechner, Chair started the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and then noting the Open Meeting Act posted on the wall.

Resignations:

Ron thanked Keith Fickenscher for his time and service to the Garden and Veterans Committee. Keith talked about the improvements to the Garden in the last dozen years and stated that he was grateful to have been able to serve.

Ron also thanked Jesse Smith for his time and service to the Garden and Veterans Committee. Jess talked about raising money for the Marine Memorial and how quickly the funds were raised to complete it. He also thanked the Committee.

Introductions:

Ron welcomed Melissa Marsh as a new member on the Committee. Melissa gave an introduction of herself. Welcome Melissa.

Ron also introduced Daniel Robertson, a senior at Pius X High School that will be doing a presentation on the Doolittle Raiders and other guest: John Beckenhauer and Melissa Wilkerson. Melissa has applied to join the committee and is waiting to hear from the Mayor's office for appointment.

Review of Minutes:

The October minutes were not included with the agenda so Ron gave a few minutes to let everyone read them. Dr. Jackson made a motion to approve, Dan seconded, voted, minutes from October 8, 2015 approved.

Committees:

Ron passed papers around with committee names on them and asked each person in attendance to join at least one committee.

Landscape:

Brendon will be setting a meeting within two weeks to discuss plates on the entryway. He has talked to Awards Unlimited regarding making the lettering darker. Mark stated that he has been told of a new glue that works better on brick and will be trying that when the weather warms up. Brendon has checked on the price to replace the bricks but it would be too expensive to do.

Ron has talked to Awards Unlimited regarding putting up a "plate" on each side with a list of names. It would be 12" x 20" and would be bolted to the walls, no glue needed. The plates are 87cents per square inch and 15 cents per letter. Ron asked that the landscape committee discuss this. Lynn Johnson stated that he will ask Parks employees to bring a couple options to the meeting.

Ron stated that the new flag poles have been drilled. New caps were put on but have been stolen. Flag poles have been moved away from the trees. A request was made to trim the white pine tree by the Merchant Marine memorial.

Mark Orr said they would like to have the new brick holders installed prior to Memorial Day, to which David Ross, Lincoln Parks planner, stated they are asking for an April 1st completion to have bricks installed and everything ready for Memorial Day's event. David has asked that we wait to order a second holder until the first one is installed and acceptable.

Ron mentioned that he turned down a request from a man to do a memorial for his individual family members. Ron advised him of the brick program and holders.

Brendon asked about the clean up day? Ron said he hopes to hold a day to clean the stones in May or even April, weather depending. Diane suggested inviting high school seniors to get their community service hours completed. Ron will advertise the event to see how many people we can get.

Old Business:

Ron discussed City Council appointments for the garden. He is requesting that Melissa Wilkerson be appointed. Jim Gordon has not been appointed as of yet.

Ron asked Lynn is he will please do the opening remarks at the June brick dedication. Lynn replied yes. Ron wants to get the City Council Members involved and will be inviting them.

Ron discussed the Veterans Day March from November. Gailen reports 50 walkers from Memorial Stadium to the Vets Garden. Ron would like to see if we can get a bag-pipe player to "play" the guys into the Garden as they enter. Discussion regarding having Vets tell their stories at the Veterans Day Program. It went well this past year. He has had a request to serve coffee at the program and will check to see if we can get a sponsor.

Memorial Day 2016 - Diane said the Vietnam Vets have backed out of helping with the candle lighting for the Memorial Day event. She asked for a group to volunteer. Usually 75 to 100 people attend and it takes only 5 or 6 to get the candles handed out and lit.

Events for 2016:

DATE	PROGRAM	START TIME
5/30/16	Memorial Day	7:30 pm bagpipes, 8:00 program
6/11/16	Brick Dedication	11:00 am
7/4/16	Fourth of July	no program, fly flags
9/11/16	Patriot's Day	11:00 am
11/11/16	Veterans Day	11:00 am at Auld
12/7/16	Pearl Harbor Memorial	11:55 am at Auld

Ron discussed musicians for the events. He also stated that he will provide a schedule of when the flags need to be flown, lowered and raised. Ron took 38 flags to the American Legion to retire. He is asking Woodmans to give new flags for the garden.

New Business:

Publicity was discussed, including advertising in the Tour Guide Book for Lincoln along with hosting a booth at different VA programs, the Air Show and any other event that will host Veterans. Diane suggested the Nebraska Travel and Tourism guidebook that is placed at each rest-stop along the Interstate.

Melissa Wilkerson suggested using Facebook and other social media to invite people to events.

Committees - Finance:

Ron shared a handout from the Parks Foundation showing income and expenses for the past year. Diane made a motion to approve the financials, Brandon seconded, voted, financial report approved.

Endowment: An endowment was set up to take care of the Garden, including monuments, tree removal or planting, and pavement. We have \$45,000 spendable dollars at this time. We could also tap into the endowment fund for maintenance of the Park and to purchase new flags and poles from the endowment. Restricted funds could be used for programs.

New Business (con't)

A new brochure is being developed for the Garden. Ron will ask Kat Scholl to see if it can be ready prior to the Air Show to be able to distribute them at the show. We currently have 2 sized pins for distribution and sales. We have 400 large sized pins and only 50 of the smaller sized pins. Ron would like to give the larger pins out with a brick purchase and work on re-designing the pin before ordering more.

Ken Orr said that we started with 7 brick layers and are down to only 3 active brick layers. We have 200 bricks that need pointed. Diane suggested the brick layers union. Dr. Jackson suggested checking with ACC to see if they offer a course in brick laying and if so, ask for help from them.

Presentation: Daniel Robertson (402-570-1982) discussed the Doolittle Raiders and the two men, Richard "Dick" Joyce and Donald Fitzmaurice, from Nebraska that were involved with that. He showed a diagram for a new monument that included 3 plaques. Both of these gentlemen are buried in Lincoln.

Daniel stated he is willing to pass out Veterans Garden brochures at school to promote the Garden. Diane mentioned an event website "vietnamwar50th.com" To check on an April 30, 2016 event. Ron invited everyone to meet the last Saturday of every month at HyVee at N. 52nd and O Streets to discuss garden events. Start time is 9 am.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 10:43 am
Respectfully submitted

Janet Ball
Recording Secretary

Ron Lechner
Chairman

The next meeting is April 8, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at the Parks Office 2740 A St.