

VETERANS MEMORIAL GARDEN ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES FOR July 21, 2017 MEETING

Advisory Council present: Ron Lechner, Chair; Brendan Moore, Vice Chair, Diane Bartels, William Jackson, Mark Orr, Jim Gordon, Melissa Wilkerson, Claude Freichs, Brice Middleton and Melissa Marsh

Advisory Council absent: Bill Bowman

Ex-Officios present: Jerry Shorney, Lynn Johnson, Shawn Quinn, David Ross JJ Yost and Janet Ball

Ex-Officios 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.

Public Comments: None

Introductions:

Ron introduced our guest, Dean Jaeger and introduced our two new voting members, Claude Freichs and Brice Midleton. Welcome to the Board Brice and Claude!

Review of Minutes:

* Jim made a motion to approve the minutes, Dr. Jackson seconded, roll call vote, minutes approved.

Committees:

Finance Report

Ron discussed the option of starting 3 separate accounts: 1) Endowment 2) bricks and 3) Events. He is proposed to move \$2,500 from the endowment account to start the new accounts at the April meeting. It was also determined that all donations from events will all go to the event fund.

Ron suggested that \$10.00 from each brick sale go into the brick account for future brick maintenance.

The number of bricks sold each calendar year will determine the amount of money that should be transferred each January.

Diane is concerned that if we cut off brick sales at the end of November, it might limit Christmas gift buying and any donations given prior to the end of December would not be counted toward the Event planning budget.

Lynn stated that we could do a budget amendment if that happens.

We currently have \$114,960 in the endowment account with a spendable amount of \$22,992.11. The brick account has \$30,517.67.

* Mark made a motion to approve \$10.00 from the brick sale to be placed in the brick maintenance account, Dr. Jackson seconded, voted, motion approved.

* Mark made a motion to approve the distribution of funds collected in the donation box in the Veterans Memorial Garden as follows: 50% to the Programs Fund and 50% to the Brick and Improvement fund. Melissa Wilkerson seconded, voted, motion approved.

* Melissa Marsh made a motion to accept approval of proceeds collected in the donation jar at events be

deposited into the Programs Fund. Jim Gordon seconded, voted, motion approved. The program account had \$219 from the donation jar at events this year.

Landscape:

Mark stated that Daniel is having trouble with Trump Monuments so Mark and Daniel will be meeting with Spidel Monument regarding the Doolittle Raiders Monument. An architect drawing is needed to approve the memorial before proceeding.

David Ross stated that they are almost ready to pour the pad for Post 9/11 ; The Gold Star; Doolittle Raiders statues and the base for Lady Liberty. Ron asked if flag holders will be poured? Shawn Quinn stated that the 6 service flags are not ready to pour yet.

Events:

Melissa Marsh stated that upcoming events will be September 10th (For 9/11); November 11th (for Veterans Day); and December 7th (for Pearl Harbor).

Diane stated that in the past the Boy Scouts have been an honor guard at events. She has contacted the Girl Scout regarding an honor guard in Lincoln. They currently do not have one but will discuss the idea and hopefully get one trained and started. Diane likes the idea of getting young people interested in the garden.

Melissa asked to change the Veterans time on November 11th to 9:30 am to 1 pm. The group will be meeting next week to discuss events. Shawn request that he be invited to attend that meeting.

Executive:

The Executive group discussed moving the quarterly meetings from January, April, July and October to meet on the 2nd Friday of March, June, September and December so that the last meeting of the year is in December. That way the budget can be set in December to have an idea of the next years events and programs. Discussion regarding the meeting month too place. Lynn stated the he is trying to keep it on the same monthly meeting months as other Boards.

* Mark made a motion to move the meetings to March, June, September and December; Dr. Jackson seconded, voted 1 NO, 9 Yes; motion approved.

Lynn stated that we will go ahead and have an October meeting and then again in December to start the changed calendar of meetings.

Staff Reports:

JJ reports that Lady Liberty is scheduled to be moved within the next week. Parks and Rec Staff are doing the work but a contractor has been hired to pour the base.

Parks and Rec Staff will also do the demo for the 9/11 monument. A contractor will do the work on the Star Bed. JJ hopes to have finished by 9/10. The Gold Star Family memorial is scheduled to start on August 1st. Sampsons will install an irrigation system at Lady Liberty. The flowers will not be savable at this time of year. Bailey Monument and Granite of Kentucky is fabricating and will install the Gold Star monument.

10 Year Plan, Facilities:

Lynn asked to set a date to meet with the landscape Committee to discuss the 10 year plan in August. JJ stated

that the meeting could be held at Parks and Rec and he can use an aerial photo. The date has been set for Friday, August 11th at 10:00 am.

Announcements:

Ron announced that August 10th at 5 pm is the Vietnam Veteran reunion. The program is at 7 pm. He request that flags be flown from August 8th thru August 15th.

September 24th is the Gold Star Family dedication of their memorial. The Military Band will start at 12:30 pm with the program starting at 1 pm. Vets will post the flags in the garden on September 23rd.

Diane reminded us of the Wyuka program for Purple Heart recipients on Monday, August 7th at 10:30 am.

There will be a remembrance of soldiers, fallen since 9/11/01 at Pinnacle Bank Arena. They will have a motorcycle escort.

Mark stated that the June brick dedication was great.

Adjourn: meeting adjourned 12:00 p.m.

The next meeting is October 13, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the Antelope Enclosed Shelter