

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

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

Advisory Council absent:

Ex-Officio's present: Jerry Shorney, Lynn Johnson, Chris Myers, 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. Ron wanted everyone to know that the appointment of Jim Gordon was not approved. The Mayor is waiting to see if Jim is elected to the Legislature. If elected, he cannot be on a City committee.

One Source Marketing:

Roger Ludemann with One Source Marketing was here to discuss the "My Living history" part of their company. This is a program that would install computer chips to connect an I-phone with the site to see detailed information regarding that site or individual that is on the chip. It was a very interesting program. Ron suggested that they delay discussion of the program until we get to "new business" in our meeting.

Review of Minutes:

The minutes from January 8th were discussed. Brendan request that his name be spelled correctly! (Sorry Brendan) minutes were approved. The minutes from April 2015 were read, no comments.

Ron welcomed and introduced Becky Bowman, Gailen Young and Joyce Peck as guest at the meeting.

Committees:

Finance: the Parks Foundation report shows \$80,791.08 in our endowment account, \$24,764.57 in the spendable account and \$48,261.05 in the Foundation account. The Foundation works with Smith/Hayes to determine investment strategies.

Ron stated that due to the fact that 17 of the existing flag poles would not raise and it would cost \$3,160 to fix them, he ordered new poles. They are to be here and installed before Memorial Day. The old flags went to the American Legion to dispose of them.

Twenty foot fixed poles need to be replaced. Ron has ordered 7 new poles and a solar panel to install on top of the Woodman Life flag pole to have the flag lit at night. He also ordered Eagles to top the poles around the arch. Total money spent = \$5,500.00

Landscape: Brendan reported that 5 roses around the star have been planted. He also reported that he had talked to Shawn Quinn on Monday and Shawn was going to cut a tree down. Brendan request a landscape plan to plant in the fall. Diane offered a 2' White Pine to donate.

Brendan introduced Joyce Peck with the Gold Star Mothers. Joyce is requesting permission to raise money for a new monument honoring post 9/11 veterans. The cost of the memorial with 60 names on it is \$10,328. The monument includes 3 blue granite benches. Individually the benches are \$1,500 each, if we purchase them at the same time, they will be reduced to \$1,300 each. Joyce has talked to the landscape committee and has a site already picked out. They would like to have this completed by the 2017 dedication in June on the 150th anniversary of the State of Nebraska. Discussion took place regarding fund raising ideas. The cost for footings

adds another \$10,328 for concrete and foundation. Lynn stated that we could check into using City bids to determine if that can be at a lesser price. Jerry guessed \$1500 to \$1700 for concrete work. Diane made a motion to approve the concept for the Gold Star Memorial to be accepted, voted, motion passed.

Daniel Robertson was introduced as a Pius X Senior that is interested in raising funds for a Doolittle Raiders memorial. The memorial will have two parts, the largest part will list all 83 raiders on the back with a plane on the front. The cost is estimated at \$8,500. A site has not been determined.

Dr Jackson made a motion to approve the concept of the Doolittle Raiders to be accepted, voted, motion passed. Again, the hope is to have it installed by the June 2017 dedication.

Bricks: Mark Orr stated the he has updated the Master List of bricks and will ask the Foundation to laminate them for him. Mark asked what the best thing to call the new holders is? After some discussion it was decided to call them “brick holders” to keep the name brick on them. Dan make a motion to call them Brick Holders, Dr. Jackson seconded, voted, approved.

Mark then stated that he was told that the first holders were to be installed by April 1st. David Ross has been in contact with Pacific and was told they are behind. Jerry stated that the old bricks will not be removed until the new bricks are in place. David promised that the holders will be installed by June 11th, 2016.

Events: Ron stated that for Memorial Day, program updates will be approx. \$130.00, bagpiper fee is \$300, singer’s fee is \$100 and two tap plays will be \$25 each to play tap and echo.

The June 11th dedication of the Bricks of Remembrance program will be a very special program. Ron wants to Honor, Inspire and Educate the public. He has hired the Homestead Harmonizers band at \$600. To play for an hour from 12 to 1 pm. Lynn will be there to welcome everyone. The vet’s center van will be there. This is the same weekend as Celebrate Lincoln weekend. Ron request that we give tours of the Garden. He has asked Melissa Marsh to write a press release and has asked Melissa Wilkerson to add the information to our FaceBook site. Discussion took place regarding advertising in the Lincoln Today magazine that comes out yearly. A full page ad is \$600, it was determined that this publication is not promoted very well and does not reach a large enough population to be cost effective.

Ron would like to have a table at the Air Show in May, but the insurance quote for the weekend is \$910 but \$155 vendor fee. Ron recommended that we do not invest in this event.

Memorial Day: A banner will cost \$108.40 and Melissa asked if she should still order one? Someone stated that they thought we had a banner. Diane invited all to attend the event, bagpipes are at 7:30 and the program starts at 8 pm.

Ron talked about using the Antelope Park Bandshell to host a musical concert as a fund raising event in September. He would like to ask the High School bands to participate. The Events Committee will research this.

New Business: Discussion took place regarding the proposal of One Source to “computerize” the Garden and make it interactive with Smart phones. The monthly fee is \$450 but the initial cost of the first phase is \$25,000. Gary would like to see more concrete numbers to be able to put this into a budget. Roger had stated

that they could help give ideas for fund-raising and could give a detailed break down of costs. It was suggested to check with other companies that are doing the same thing to get a cost and result comparison. Ron suggested tabling this until it has gone to the Publicity Committee to determine what we want to accomplish.

Garry volunteered to be on the Events/Publicity Committee.

Melissa M. Made the motion to investigate use of a app to publicize the Garden, Garry 2nd, voted, approved.

Clean up day: Jerry stated that Shawn Quinn will have most of the Grounds maintenance done and suggest the focus be on cleaning the monuments. Mark will check with Shawn regarding the cleaning product. Ron asked for a show of hands to see who will show up to clean on April 30th at 9:00 a.m., several people raised their hand.

Ron reported the death of Brooks Sasse, a past member of the Committee.

A meeting is set for May 7th at the N 52nd and O HyVee at 9 a.m. to further discuss Garden Issues.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 11:35 am

Respectfully submitted

Janet Ball
Recording Secretary

Ron Lechner
Chairman

NOTE: date and location change for July meeting!

The next meeting is July 15, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at Parks and Recreation 2740 A Street