

VETERAN'S MEMORIAL GARDEN ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES FOR October 14, 2016 MEETING

Advisory Council present: Ron Lechner, Chair; Brendan Moore, Vice Chair, Diane Bartels, Dan Petersen, William Jackson, Mark Orr, Melissa Marsh, and Melissa Wilkerson
Advisory Council absent: Bill Bowman and Garry Morgan
Ex-Officio's present: Jerry Shorney, Lynn Johnson, Chris Myers, and Janet Ball
Ex-Officio's absent: David Ross

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. Janet read a "roll call" attendance. Ron reminded everyone 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.

Review of Minutes:

The minutes from July 15th were discussed. Mark Orr made a motion to approved, seconded by Brendan Moore, voted, minutes were approved. The minutes from our special meeting on August 19th were discussed. Diane wanted to know when the cut off for agenda items will be. It was stated that all items need to be brought to either Ron or Janet Ball at Parks Admin at least two weeks in advance. Dr. Jackson made a motion to approve the August 19th minutes, Mark seconded, voted, minutes approved.

Public Comments:

Joyce and Maria (The Gold Star Mothers) thanked the Veterans Committee and Parks staff for their knowledge and encouragement on getting the Gold Star Mothers Post 9-11 memorial going.

Diane Bartles reminded everyone that Wreaths Across America will take place again this year. December 12th a kick off will be held at the State Capital Building at 11:00 a.m. The Wreath laying program will be done on December 17th. Each wreath is \$15.00 and all the money goes to the wreath. If you would like to help with wreath laying, please report to Wyuka Cemetery, North side entrance at 10:30 on December 17th. The program starts at 11:00 am. And the wreaths will be laid at 11:30 a.m. The goal is to raise enough money for 900 wreaths this year. There at 1,500 veterans grave sites at Wyuka.

Committees:

Finance: the Parks Foundation report shows \$82,273.74 in our endowment account, \$46,055.02 in the general account and \$16,935.47 in the spendable general funds. The spendable balance "rolls forward" if not used.

Ron proposed that \$25,000 be moved from the General fund to the Endowment fund. Mark made a motion to moved the money, Melissa Marsh 2nd, voted, approved.

Landscape/Bricks:

Mark discussed raising the cost of the Bricks of Honor from \$100.00 to \$150.00. He gave a detailed handout of expenses associated with the new bricks. Mark stated that he is working on a new contract for bricks. (See cost sheet attached). He wants a quality product that is worth the extra cost. Lynn stated that ideally a three (3) or five (5) year contract with the manufacturer of the bricks would be nice. As long as they have a quality product and has a stipulation of the brick size and font used so all bricks look the same. Diane asked if he will continue working with Pacific? Mark stated yes, that David Ross has talked to Pacific several times. Pacific has agreed to do all bricks and plates over again. We plan to wait and see how the 60 examples of new bricks turn out to check the quality of them before signing a contract with them.

Lynn would like to see it set up that when someone buys a brick, it covers the cost of the brick and the cost to replace the brick gets put into the endowment fund to use if necessary. We also need to endow the brick holders in case they ever need replacing.

Dr. Jackson made a motion to raise the brick cost, Melissa Wilkerson seconded, voted approved. This will be effective as of November 1, 2016.

Jerry suggest that the Landscape/Brick committee get together to come up with a plan. Brendan discussed replacing two (2) trees on the North entrance. He said that he needs to know what trees go in. Jerry stated that Parks planning will do a master plan including tree landscaping this winter and be ready by spring. Jerry also stated that the Lady Liberty statue currently at Parks Admin, needs to be moved by the end of March.

Events & Publicity

Ron is trying to get donuts donated for the event. The committee is meeting on October 20th to discuss the Veterans program. He gave a list of expected guest and speakers for the event. Dr. Jackson will MC the date.

Ron announced a Holiday Gathering on December 15th at 6 pm. Location: Valentinos at S. 70th and Van Dorn. Cost is \$12.43 for each adult. There will be a cash bar. He hopes to have 40 people attend and has invited all Veterans on the Committee along with Park and Rec Staff that attends the meetings. (Thanks Ron!)

Executive Committee

Ron thanked all the Council members and their availability on Committees. Ron will be asking Gary Morgan to step down from the council due to lack of attendance. Bill Bowman is ill, Ron will talk to him and Jim Gordon is still pending, depending on the outcome of the upcoming election. If Jim is elected to Legislature, he will not be available for the Veterans Committee. Melissa Marsh made a motion to approve the committee appointments, Mark seconded, voted, motion carried.

Bylaws:

A change to the By-laws was introduced at this meeting, (see below) and will be voted on at our next meeting in January 2017. After that, the change will be sent to the City Council to approve.

Proposed amendment to Section 3 of Article IV of the Bylaws of the City of Lincoln Veterans Memorial Garden Advisory Council. (Introduced on October 14, 2016)

Section 3. ~~The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall not serve in any elected office for more than two consecutive terms.~~ No person shall hold more than one elected office at any one time. These limits do not apply to the chairs of committees.

Guidelines for Monuments, Memorials and Elements Placed in the Garden

Guidelines have been written down and copies distributed to members. This is to get a set, structured list of requirements to proceed with the approval process for a newly proposed monument, etc. to be placed in the Garden. Diane suggested that new people need help to get the proposals and documents that goes to the Landscape Committee and then to the Advisory Council for concept approval. They must get an architecture drawing to submit before they are given approval to fund-raise. Mark suggested that someone from the Landscaping Committee be assigned to each new person or group to help with the details. Lynn Johnson stated that a Parks and Rec. Staff person will also be designated to help with the process.

Diane made a motion to accept the Guidelines for Monuments, Memorials and Elements Placed in the Garden,

excluding the previously approved memorials for Post 9/11 and the Doolittle Raiders. Dr. Jackson seconded, voted, approved. Ron “set aside” the Guideline Committee with his humble appreciation.

Strategic Planning:

Ron established a plan to move forward for the development of the Garden. He would like to have either a 1, 3 or 5 year plan of things we wish to do, including Lincoln Parks and Recreation.

Lynn suggested that the have a special meeting to do strategic planning with a facilitator. Ron would like to do this prior to our January meeting, so he would like to hold this meeting the first part of December. Ron states that the Korean War plaque is full and only 4 spots left on the Vietnam plaque, and planning when to move the flags will be topics of discussion.

The date for the special meeting has been set for Saturday, November 12th from 8:30 to 11:30 am. At Antelope Enclosed Shelter. Lynn stated that the Advisory Council and any key staff will be invited to attend and that the meeting is open to the public. Ron asked Council members to get any agenda items or ideas to Janet.

Another project for the meeting is to set the meeting time for the Executive Committee to set the agenda two weeks prior to the Council meetings. The January meeting is set for January 3rd at 11:00 am at Parks and Recreation. We also need to determine the location of the Post 9-11 memorial. Lynn suggested the spot where the former flag burning station was. Parks is to demo the current item there. He also stated that the conflicts were arranged chronologically, but, long term, they will be out of order. The Bronze Star mothers requested a location by the auld Pavilion so people could park at Auld and see the memorial. Mark Orr made the motion to approve moving the Post 9-11 memorial to the flag burning spot, Dr. Jackson seconded, voted, approved.

Ron reminded people of the Holiday party and asked that the RSVP to him to get a count of attendees.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 10:20 am

Respectfully submitted

Janet Ball
Recording Secretary

Ron Lechner
Chairman