

Veterans Memorial Garden Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 7:30 am

Antelope Enclosed Shelter

3200 Memorial Dr

Lincoln, Nebraska

Advisory Council Members Present: Joe Brownell, Craig Anderson, Brendan Moore, Marcy Haas, Carole Tanner, John Mamaril

Others Present: Joyce Peck, Diane Bartles, Mark Orr, Mr. Richard Schmeling, Councilperson Tom Duden, Major General Roger Lemke

LPR/Lincoln Parks Foundation Staff Present: Maggie Stuckey-Ross, J.J. Yost, Shawn Quinn, Randy Gordon, Chris Myers, Jamie Granquist, Mike Comstock, Jocelyn Golden

1. Call to Order (roll call):

Craig Anderson called the meeting to order, and Jamie Granquist called the roll.

Quorum was met with 6 members present.

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 outside, overlooking the Garden.

5. Approval of Minutes:

Brendan moved to approve the minutes; Joe seconded.

The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

6. Public Comments for items not listed on the Agenda:

Major General Roger Lemke spoke on the post 9-11 Memorial does not have Corporal Deagan Page on it. Requested that his name be placed on that wall. Asked what needs to be done prior to Memorial Day in May to get that in the works? Craig provided history of family contact, in this case, with no response up to this point. Confirmation is needed from a family to add the name (Opt in, not Opt out) by current policy. Joe provided that his name will be added as soon as the family approves.

Diane Bartles reminded the team that the Outreach Committee previously had said it would try to create and provide a video about the Gardens & it's history, so that LPS

follows guidelines for social studies and that there must be set curriculum about veterans, noting that a Gardens video, and the events the VMGAC puts on, might be beneficial. The committee is disbanded but conversation is needed for a plan & overall creation. Maggie reported that this could happen, and the department is supportive, but capacity is limited, VMGAC members or supporters would have to take it on. Mark reports that he does get lots of the same types of questions and a video of those common answers might be smart and help raise awareness overall. Each member could record different sections for the series due to specific interests and varied knowledge. Diane would report back to the LPS member that group will think about it. Young soldiers might be more inclusive to students in school. Joe suggested he will see if there is interest with UNL community to assist with the video.

*Action item for next meeting

7. Board Training: Jocelyn Golden, City Law

Jocelyn provided the annual Board training. 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 1st & 2nd 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.

8. Committee Reports

a. Facilities Committee: No Report

b. Events and Publicity Committee:

i. 2024 Events: Please add these dates to your calendar!

Joe Brownell reported that the schedule was finalized (listed below) and remaining items for the pledge & closing remarks on Memorial Day. Joyce asked if it can be 2 people vs 1 and Diane said she knows that Thad cannot commit due to currently serving and unsure what he might be called to do for that service, that day. Joe requested that the event draft be shared after the meeting so members can work on filling spots and event highlights. Each event listed below, reminders to make at least half of the events so get them on your calendar now and let Events Committee know what events can be attended.

- 1. Memorial Day** (organized by Lincoln Memorial Day Observance Association): Monday, May 27 evening ceremony/typically 8pm
- 2. Bricks of Honor Dedication** (organized by Lincoln Parks Foundation), Saturday, June 8 at 10 am
- 3. Patriot Day** (organized by VMGAC/coordinate with City-wide event at State Capitol), Wednesday September 11; time TBD
- 4. Veterans Day Parade** (organized by Lincoln Veterans Parade Group/Veterans Day Parade Committee), November XXX
- 5. Veterans Day** (organized by VMGAC), Monday, November 11 at 11am in Auld Pavilion

6. Pearl Harbor Day (organized by VMGAC), Saturday, December 7 at 11:55 am in Auld Pavilion

Mark reported that Veterans Freedom Music Festival will be on June 1st and has offered the Committee to have a table at the event, let him know if interested in staffing it.

c. Executive Committee:

i. Guidelines for Inscription of Veterans' Names on the Post 9-11 Monument

Craig summarized that the discussion before the committee is of current policy and proposed changes to the current guidelines. The included meeting handout shows criteria for current guidelines. Group discussion of how much documentation and what sources are required for each section. Training language is in the current guidelines, documentation of "Nebraskan" and what those categories mean was discussed. The primary manner of documenting "Nebraskan" already exists but considering of alternatives is before committee.

Mr. Richard Schmeling spoke on that killed in training accidents are important to add to monuments and outside of perimeters should be considered. Notification of next of kin and responses, method of how family gets the letter by certified mail, so the receipt is known and if no reply, go ahead and add them. The reasons for the lack of reply may be unknown but their recognition is still important. Craig and Brendon reported that killed in service means at any time while a service member, for any reason. Language discussed about how "sufficient Nebraska connection" can be construed in broad based definitions and guidelines and reasoning. "Purpose of policy is to recognize Nebraskans killed in service to our country." No proposed end dates at this time, for the current Post 9-11 monument. Narrow criteria can stalemate the process and multiple items for ways to prove connection can help. Looking to exiting policies in other organizations and how "Nebraska resident" is defined might be a good model to review.

"Opt in vs Opt out" process for names on the list discussed. How are names placed on the list on State Website for Veterans? Joyce replied that her personal experience, with letters and notification requests, is that some families just don't respond due to being overwhelmed by process and grief. Concern of leaving soldier's name off doesn't recognize their service and sacrifice but the other alternative is possibly listing the name that a family doesn't want placed there, possibly being offended if they saw their loved one's name in a place they didn't approve or know about being placed there. More discussion is needed for this complicated process.

9. Announcements

- a. Council vacancies
- b. Reminders to please let Craig/Mike know your committee selection if you are not yet on a subcommittee.

10. Adjourn

Brendan moved to adjourn; Marcy seconded. **Craig called the meeting adjourned.**

**Next Quarterly Meeting: June 13, 2024, 7:30am (Antelope Enclosed Shelter, Antelope Park, S.
32nd & Veterans Drive)**

Respectfully Submitted:



Handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jamie Granquist'.

Jamie Granquist, Recording Secretary