VETERANS MEMORIAL ISLAND SANCTUARY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, December 7, 2016 – 10:00 a.m.
Council Chambers, City Hall, Vero Beach, Florida

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. HONORING PEARL HARBOR REMBERANCE DAY

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) November 2, 2016

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A) Chairman
B) Vice-Chairman

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2016 Annual Report

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. Update on Ribbon Palm Trees – Mr. Don Dexter, Public Works Manager

9. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

A. Thank You - Anthony W. "Tony" Young

10. MEMBER'S MATTERS

11. NEXT MEETING DATE

A) Next Meeting Date – January 4, 2017

12. ADJOURNMENT

This is a Public Meeting. Should any interested party seek to appeal any decision made by the Committee with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Anyone who needs a special accommodation for this meeting may contact the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator at 978-4920 at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

VETERANS MEMORIAL ISLAND SANCTUARY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, November 2, 2016 – 10:00 a.m.
Council Chambers, City Hall, Vero Beach, Florida

PRESENT: Chairman, Anthony Young, Vice Chairman, Alma Lee Loy; Members: John Matthews, Joel Herman, and Barbara Fallon **Also Present:** Public Works Manager, Don Dexter (arrived 10:04); Recreation Director, Rob Slezak, and Senior Administrative Assistant, Rita Hawkins

Excused Absence: Curtis Paulisin

1. CALL TO ORDER

Today's meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Committee members and the audience joined together in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) September 7, 2016

Mr. Herman made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2016 Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee meeting. Ms. Loy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Ribbon Palm Tree Substitution Plan – Mr. Don Dexter, Public Works Manager

Mr. Young reported that some of the Queen Palm trees are suffering from a disease, so they are replacing them with Ribbon Palms, which have a natural immunity to the virus.

Mr. Herman asked if they are only replacing one (1) or two (2) Queen Palms.

Mr. Young explained that there are about a half dozen on either side of the walkway leading to the cenotaph area that will be replaced.

Mr. Don Dexter, Public Works Manager, stated that the hurricane put a wrench in their timing for the tree replacement, but they are currently getting pricing from three (3) vendors.

Mr. Herman asked how many trees were affected by the disease.

Mr. Dexter replied that they are going to replace the 12 Queen Palms along the walkway between the flagpole and the ceremonial circle. Only one (1) Queen Palm completely died and some others look

questionable. The disease will continue to spread and that is why they are replacing all of them. They thought this would be a good opportunity to use some of the funds in the Tree Mitigation Account to plant some nicer Palms and spruce up the Island. As far as they know the Ribbon Palms are not susceptible to the fungus.

B. Post Hurricane Recovery – Mr. Don Dexter, Public Works Manager

Mr. Young commented that the only damage he saw on Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary following the hurricane was some foliage on the ground and the directory sign was ajar. The flag was taken down so it was not damaged.

Mr. Dexter stated that there was very minimal damage to the Island other than some branches being broken off the Banyan tree.

C. Dedicatory Bench Request

Mr. Young reported that the dedicatory bench request was removed from today's agenda.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. Veterans Day 2016 Planning – Mr. Tony Young

Mr. Matthews showed a draft copy of the program for the Veterans Day ceremony. The cover is a picture of an American Bald Eagle that was provided by the National Veterans Day Committee. The keynote speaker is Army Major General Buckingham who is a recipient of the Silver Star, Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart. He briefly reviewed the schedule of events for the Veterans Day ceremony. He stated that the ceremony starts at 9:00 a.m., but people should try to get there early.

Ms. Loy stated General Buckingham is really honored to be the speaker and he is making an extra effort to be here, because he lives in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Young commented that General Buckingham has written several papers and some of them have become a standard for some of the war colleges. His experiences are still continuing to shape military officers today.

Mr. Young said that the community continues to help with the events on Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary. He stated that Home Depot called and offered to donate red, white, and blue flowers again for the Veterans Day ceremony and Quail Valley is providing a golf cart.

B. Recap of POW/MIA Ceremony – Mr. Tony Young

Mr. Young reported that there was a POW/MIA ceremony at the Indian River Mall. This was the first military ceremony ever held at the Mall.

C. Report on Community Service Project by Saint Edward's School – Mr. Rob Slezak, Recreation Director

Mr. Rob Slezak, Recreation Director, stated that they were fortunate to have Father Tommy Matthews and the students from Saint Edwards Upper School come out to Riverside Park and Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary for a community service project. They had more than 60

students who volunteered to cleanup Memorial Island and Riverside Park on September 13, 2016. They did a tremendous job of eliminating a lot of invasive vegetation and they scrubbed the benches and monuments. Home Depot provided all of the supplies for this project, which was a big help. The School plans on doing a community service project like this on a yearly basis.

Mr. Young asked Mr. Slezak for the name of the individual who coordinated this project so that he can send a thank you note.

Mr. Slezak replied that he will get that information to him.

7. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

A. Recap of Gold Star Memorial Dedication – September 25, 2016

Mr. Young reported that on September 25, 2016 there was a dedication of the Gold Star Memorial Monument in Port St. Lucie. He understands that this monument is one (1) of only two (2) in the State of Florida. The other monument is located in Tampa. Military families have a huge weight that they carry, so having a monument set aside for the families that have lost loved ones is enormous. There were at least a dozen Gold Star families who spoke at the dedication. The fact that we have our own Island here in Indian River County that recognizes the loss of men and women in service to our County is something they should be proud of.

Mr. Matthews commented that it was sad but sweet to hear the stories of the Gold Star families. It was a nice program with over 1,000 people in attendance.

B. A Wreath for Veterans

Mr. Young stated that he was contacted by the Vietnam Veterans of American who are planning on displaying a wreath to honor the Vietnam Veterans on Veterans Day.

8. MEMBER'S MATTERS

Mr. Matthews reminded the community and the Committee that the Marine Corp Ball will be on November 12, 2016 at Point West. It is almost sold out, but people can call him at 234-1512 and pick up tickets at his jewelry store. He said that he invited a gentleman to today's meeting to share an idea he has.

Mr. Doug Clock, United States Air Force Veteran, said that he is involved in the community and with the Boy Scouts. He brings the Boy Scouts to Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary to hand out water and programs during the ceremonies. He explained that during the 4th of July parade in Sebastian he ran into a gentleman who was with an organization called Wreaths Across America. They are a nonprofit organization run by veterans that lay wreaths at the Arlington Cemetery and other cemeteries across the country and abroad. He said that Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary is one of the locations they are looking at to provide wreathes for. To start with, Wreaths Across America will give the City seven (7) free wreathes to be placed out on December 17th, which is the National Day for laying out the wreaths. His thought is that they could get the word out to the community and do fundraising, so they can get enough wreaths for all the cenotaph markers. He explained that each wreath costs $15.00 and donations can even be made on line, which would go to the contact person for this county.

Mr. Matthews explained that they cannot make money for the Island, so the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee members cannot be the contact person for the program. He understands it is a nonprofit organization, but it would be fitting for a Veterans Organization to take it on as a project and raise the money over the course of the year.

Mr. Young agreed that this should be something that a Veterans Organization should look at. He said they can take this to the Veterans Council Executive Board to let them discuss it. He feels that if they do this all the cenotaphs should receive a wreath.

Mr. Matthews asked if someone donated $1,500.00 could they authorize the wreaths be placed on all of the cenotaphs.

Mr. Young said he would hope that they would have an endorsement by a Veterans group. However, if a private business would like to support the project through the Veterans Council that is another way to handle it.

Ms. Loy stated that the concept is wonderful, but the details need to be worked out.

Ms. Fallon said that any non-profit organization could make a donation.

Mr. Matthews asked how long do the wreaths stay there and does the organization pick them back up.

Mr. Clock explained that they are fresh wreaths that might either be delivered by a truck, or shipped to the point of contact person. They can be displayed for as long as they want and then the organization or the Boy Scouts can pick them up.

Mr. Young said that from a timing perspective this is something that should be put in place next spring or summer.

Mr. Herman asked if they could accept the seven (7) wreaths and place them on the service markers on the Island for this year.

Mr. Young said that the seven (7) free wreaths are given with their commitment to participate in the program, so he would not accept them until they have everything in line.

Mr. Young said that he would like to congratulate Colonel Sam Coons on being elected as the new President of the Veterans Council of Indian River County. He also recognized the new 2nd Vice President, Craig Waskow.

Mr. Matthews announced that on November 17, 2016 the Navy League will be honoring the Marine Corp birthday and Marine Colonel B.G. Hughes will be the speaker at the dinner. He said the Navy League has one of the best speaker series in the area.

Mr. Joe Coreccia and Mr. Garry Halstead, Indian River Charitable Association, announced that every year their organization sells tee signs for their annual golf tournament. For the past five (5) years they have been lining the roadway to Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary on Veterans Day with the signs. This allows them to further recognize the local businesses who are investing in the veterans and the Charitable Association. This year they split the golf tournament with the Vietnam Veterans of Indian River County, which was a very successful tournament with 104 players.

Mr. Young asked how much money did they raise for the veterans.

Mr. Coreccia replied that they will have the final tally in the next few days. In the past they have usually issued them a check for $1,000.00, but this year it might be $3,000.00 or more.

Mr. Young asked how many signs will be placed along the road.

Mr. Coreccia stated that they sold about 35 to 40 sponsor signs and they are all from small businesses in Indian River County.

Mr. Young asked Mr. Coreccia if he could provide him with the names of businesses.

Mr. Coreccia replied yes.

Mr. Young stated that it is a priority to have the signs displayed very early.

Mr. Coreccia reassured him that the signs will be put out at 7:30 a.m. and right after the ceremony they will be picked up.

Mr. Young announced that there will be another Veterans Day ceremony at Sebastian's Riverview Park on November 11th at 11:00 a.m. Also on November 11th from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Fort Pierce, Jetson TV & Appliance will hold their annual veterans recognition with a free hot dog barbeque. On Saturday November 12th Velde Ford is holding a fundraiser for veterans starting at 11:00 a.m.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

A) Next Meeting Date – December 7, 2016

The next meeting of the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee is scheduled for December 7, 2016.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Today's meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

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7. A)

Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee 2016 Annual Report

Memorial Day 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: **Mrs. Laura Moss, Mayor and City Council Members**

FROM: **Ms. Alma Lee Loy, Vice-Chairman Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee**

DATE: **December ??, 2016**

SUBJECT: **2016 Annual Report**

- The Committee held 11 regular meetings during the year to carry out their responsibilities, as guardian of the City owned Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary.

- The Committee of five (5) full members and one (1) alternate member is currently seeking to fill the second alternate position.

2016-2017

Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee Members

Anthony "Tony" Young Chairman	12/07/10 - 11/08/16 6/15/2019
Alma Lee Loy Vice Chairman	9/18/07 6/15/2019
John Matthews	9/16/03 6/15/2017
Joel Herman	9/16/03 6/20/2018
Barbara Fallon	12/07/10 6/15/2019
Curtis Paulisin Alternate #1	6/07/11 6/15/2019

Rita Hawkins - Senior Administrative Assistant

- Mr. Anthony W. "Tony" Young served faithfully and diligently on the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee from December 7, 2010 through November 8, 2016. He served as Chairman of the Committee for the last five (5) years. He was successfully appointed to the City Council on November 8, 2016 and he will be greatly missed.

- Activities on Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary this year have included the observance of Memorial Day and Veterans Day with appropriate ceremonies under the leadership of the Indian River County Veterans Council and our Committee. Other ceremonies this past year included the Indian River County Victims' Rights Coalition, an award ceremony for Cpl. Sylvester McIntosh, individual memorial services for Mr. Joseph Kenneth Bartley, Mr. Jay

Sample, a retirement ceremony for Chief Petty Officer Buck McTee, and a promotional ceremony for Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Matthews.

- Mr. Jim Moran and Mr. Bruce Caddy, Orchid Island Cross Fit Gym, held an event called "Hump for our Vets" on February 13, 2016. It was a physical endurance military march that included a 20-minute gathering at Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary in honor of our Veterans. This fundraiser benefited the Veterans Council of Indian River County.

- Mr. Don Dexter, Public Works Manager, reported to the Committee that the surface of the water fountain on the Island was deteriorated and faded, so it was sanded down and given fresh coat of paint.

- Ms. Nanette Haynes, Grounds Maintenance Manager, has been working with The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) throughout the year to develop a plan and obtain permits for trimming and maintaining the protected mangroves around the Island.

- It was discovered that the cenotaph marker in the Island with the name John A. Keen should have actually been for Joel Preston Keen, so our Committee requested to expend funds from the Veterans Memorial Island account have the marker replaced.

- The Public Works Department cleared out overgrown foliage that was growing around the benches near the Lest We Forget monument and the benches were pressure washed.

- A second event was sponsored by Orchid Island Cross Fit Gym, called "Zero Dark Thirty", which was also a fundraiser for the Veterans Council of Indian River County. This was a 12-hour event where the participants engaged in workouts at the top of every hour in honor of the veterans who are recognized on Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary.

- Mrs. Peggy Cunningham, Executive Director of the Alzheimer and Parkinson Association, came to the July meeting to ask permission for their organization to use Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary on November 12, 2016 for part of their annual fundraiser "A Walk to Remember". Our Committee unanimously approved them to use the Island as part of their walk route, providing they follow the rules of the Island as they have in the past.

- In July we reviewed a flag protocol recommendation from the Veterans Council that was being presented to the City for consideration. The new flag protocol was put into place and it has not been an inconvenience to the City staff.

- In September Mr. Tommy Matthews, School Chaplain, and the high school students from Saint Edward's school held a community service project. Part of the volunteer work included cleaning the monuments and the benches on Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary. It was a very successful event and the students did an outstanding job.

- Our Committee was informed that the Queen Palm Trees that line the walkway from the flagpole to the ceremonial circle on Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary were declining from a fungus. Funds from the City's Tree Mitigation Account were used to purchase 12 Ribbon

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Palm Trees to replace the diseased trees. It is believed that the Ribbon Palm Trees are not susceptible to the fungus and they will give a fresh new look to the Island.

- The Veterans Memorial Island account currently has a balance of $????? as of ??????, 2016.

- Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee is grateful for the help, guidance, and dedication of the City of Vero Beach Public Works Department, especially Mr. Don Dexter, Public Works Manager, Ms. Nanette Haynes, Grounds Maintenance Manager; the Recreation Department, especially Mr. Rob Slezak, Recreation Director, and his staff; and Mrs. Tammy Bursick, City Clerk, and her staff, especially Ms. Rita Hawkins, Senior Administrative Assistant. Their efforts are appreciated and vital to the operation of this Committee.

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