

**VETERANS MEMORIAL ISLAND SANCTUARY  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday, December 5, 2018 – 10:00 a.m.  
City Hall, Council Chambers, Vero Beach, Florida**

**AGENDA**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - A) November 7, 2018**
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- 5. NEW BUSINESS**
  - A) Wreaths Across America Ceremony – Mr. Rick Lewis**
  - B) Annual Report**
- 6. OLD BUSINESS**
  - A) Recap of the Veterans Day Ceremony**
  - B) Update on the Repair/Replacement of the Gold Star Families Plaque**
- 7. CHAIRMAN’S MATTERS**
- 8. MEMBER’S MATTERS**
- 9. NEXT MEETING DATE**
  - A) Next Meeting Date – January 2, 2019**
- 10. 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 7, 2018 – 10:00 a.m.  
City Hall, Council Chambers, Vero Beach, Florida**

**PRESENT:** Chairman, John Michael Matthews, Vice Chairman, Joel Herman, Members: Barbara Fallon, Curtis Paulisin, Don Wickstrand; and Alternate Member, Peggy Lyon **Also Present:** Recreation Director, Rob Slezak; Public Works Manager, Don Dexter, Assistant City Attorney, Stefanie Beskovoyne, and Senior Administrative Assistant, Rita Hawkins

**Excused Absence:** Sylvester McIntosh

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Matthews called today's meeting 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 5, 2018**

Mr. Matthews asked to make a couple of corrections to the September 5<sup>th</sup> minutes. He said on page three (3) the Next Generation Veterans monument name is "Words from War", not "Word from War". Also on page five (5), the actual date of the POW/MIA day should read the 21<sup>st</sup> of September and not the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Mr. Herman made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2018 Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee meeting with the two (2) corrections made. Ms. Fallon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Katherine Garofalo, a Junior from Indian River Charter High School, said that she came to the meeting today because every year each student needs to attend a cultural event, a government meeting, and do 10 volunteer hours in order to graduate. She said she chose this meeting because she is in the choir and they are doing a salute to the Armed Forces this year, so she thought it would be fitting.

Mr. Matthews said the Committee is glad she attended and that they will be talking about topics related to Veterans. He explained that the purpose of the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee is to protect and preserve and to oversee what happens on the Island.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

None

**6. OLD BUSINESS**

**A) Recap of POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony – September 21, 2018**

Mr. Matthews stated the POW/MIA ceremony took place at Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary on September 21, 2018. He explained that the POW/MIA monument is a regional monument and it was an appropriate ceremony.

**B) Recap of Veterans Council Next Generation Veterans Ruck March – September 22, 2018**

Mr. Matthews reported that he participated in what was supposed to be a six (6) mile march, but parts of it were a run. It was a motivated crew of young veterans, friends, and families. The march started at Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary proceeded through some beachside neighborhoods, up to Jaycee Park, and then back down to Riverside Park. He said it was raining, but there were still quite a few people who participated. They left their gear near the boat ramps as they entered the Island to hear a few words from the President of the Veterans Council.

Mr. Herman asked how much food did they collect. Mr. Matthews replied that he is not sure on how many pounds of food there was, but it was a truck full. He explained that the participants were each supposed to carry 15 to 30 pounds of food in their rucksack during the march. It was a lot of fun, it brought people together, and it provided some good exercise.

**C) Recap of Parkinson Association's Walk to Remember - November 3, 2018**

Mr. Matthews stated that part of the Parkinson Association's Walk to Remember took place on the Island, but yesterday he noticed that their event sign was still there. He is not sure if it should stay posted for Veterans Day, or if it should be removed.

Mrs. Lyon reported that she attended the event and it was a wonderful. The main event with the booths and participants was staged in Riverside Park. The walk started in Riverside Park and they went through Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary and ended back in the Park. She explained that the walkers were charged by the event hosts to be reverential on the Island. Once the people reached the Island they were quieter and she could tell they sensed the sacred place that they were walking. It was a good group and she enjoyed the event.

**D) Recap of the Veterans Parade – November 3, 2018**

Mr. Matthews reported that on November 3, 2018 there was also a Veterans Parade in downtown, which was sponsored by the Cultural Arts community. The parade started at the Community Center and went south down 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue, turned right on 19<sup>th</sup> Street, and ended at the Cultural Arts Village area. General Buckingham spoke for several minutes about the history of Vero Beach and being raised here. He was impressed with what this 91-year-old man could remember and that he spoke without any notes.

Mr. Paulisin explained that there was some confusion among some of the participants because the time of the parade was changed from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Mr. Matthews stated that the reason for the change was that the High School band had a conflict with the 10:00 a.m. start time. The parade was part of the City's Centennial Celebration and to bring awareness to the Cultural Arts Village.

**E) Update on the Veterans Day Ceremony - November 10, 2018**

Mr. Matthews announced that the next big event is the Veterans Day ceremony. Veterans Day is traditionally the eleventh hour, on the eleventh day of the eleventh month. He stated that the cover of the Veterans Day program also mentions the 100<sup>th</sup> year of World War I (WWI) and it pictures a Poppy flower, which is the flower of WWI. The Veterans Day ceremony will be on Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>

and it starts at 9:00 a.m. They are expecting 1,500 people to attend and they are recommending that people bring a chair, because there is limited seating. They will have all the traditional sites and sound associated with Veterans Day. The Parade Marshall will be Colonel Tony Young and the Master of Ceremonies will be Colonel Sam Kouns. He briefly went over other key people involved in the ceremony. He announced that Sebastian will hold their Veterans Day ceremony on Saturday at Riverview Park at 1:00 p.m. Veterans Day is a celebration of all those who served in the military.

**F) Update on the Gold Star Families Monument and Plaques**

Mr. Matthews asked if the Gold Star Families plaque has been installed. Mr. Don Dexter, Public Works Manager, reported that the plaque was installed about a week ago and it is mounted on the front face of the existing monument, which is to the left of the cenotaph square. He explained that the City maintenance crew was out doing some work on the Island and a truck put a ding in the plaque. They decided to leave it there for the ceremony and then they will get it repaired or replaced. He said the new Green Buttonwood Trees received some sprucing up with fresh mulch. In the near future the Gold Star family members will be identified and name plaques will be place at each of those trees.

**7. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS**

Mr. Matthews reported that 140 people attended the Marine Corp Ball, but it is a tribute to all branches of the military. He said a bit of sad news is that the oldest member of the Marine Corp league only has a few months left to live. He said he was also approached by a lady who said her husband has just passed and she asked if they could have a ceremony on the Island for him. He explained to her that it is appropriate to have a ceremony on the Island for a Veteran. She also asked him if they would be allowed to put up a tent and have food on the Island. He advised her to have a meeting place off the Island after wards, but they could have the ceremony, play taps, present a flag to the family, and ashes can be spread in the water. Ms. Fallon suggested that there is large pavilion in Riverside Park just down from the entrance of the Island that might be appropriate for them to use.

**8. MEMBER'S MATTERS**

None

**9. NEXT MEETING DATE**

**A) Next Meeting Date – December 5, 2018**

The next meeting of the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee is scheduled for December 5, 2018.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Today's meeting adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

/rh

*Veterans Memorial Island  
Sanctuary Advisory Committee  
2018 Annual Report*



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Mr. Harry Howle, Mayor and  
City Council Members

**FROM:** Mr. John Michael Matthews, Chairman  
Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee

**DATE:** December 5, 2018

**SUBJECT:** 2018 Annual Report

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- The Committee held 10 regular meetings and one (1) Special Call meeting 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 two (2) alternate members is presently working with a full board.

*2018-2019*

*Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee Members*

John Michael Matthews Chairman	9/16/03 <u>6/15/2021</u>
Joel Herman	9/16/03 <u>6/15/2022</u>
Barbara Fallon	12/07/10 <u>6/15/2019</u>
Curtis Paulisin	6/07/11 <u>6/15/2019</u>
Don Wickstrand	12/6/16 <u>6/15/2019</u>
Sylvester McIntosh Alternate #1	1/3/17 <u>6/15/2021</u>
Peggy Lyon Alternate #2	8/8/17 <u>6/15/2021</u>

- This year the Memorial Day Ceremony was moved to the Vero Beach High School Performing Arts Center due to inclement weather, but the observance of Veterans Day was held on Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary with an appropriate ceremony under the leadership of the Indian River County Veterans Council and this Committee. Other ceremonies on the Island included the annual Indian River County Victims' Rights Coalition Vigil, a tribute to the Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, a POW/MIA remembrance

ceremony, memorial services for Mr. Jeffery Flannery, and Mr. John E. Wilson Jr., and a Purple Heart award ceremony for Mr. Charles Vigilante.

- In January, Mr. Rick Lewis and Mr. Joe Crowley made a presentation on the Wreaths Across America program. They explained that they would like to start the Wreaths Across America program in Vero Beach. They would like to raise funds to be able to purchase and place live wreaths at all of the cenotaph markers on Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary on December 15, 2018. They explained that the program started 26 years ago in Arlington Cemetery and has spread to cities and towns everywhere. The wreath laying ceremony takes place at the same time all across the United States starting at 10:30 a.m. and then there is a ceremony at 12:00 p.m. The Committee unanimously approved placing wreathes on the cenotaph markers.
- Mr. Jimmy Jackson and Mr. Bruce Cady, Veterans Council of Indian River County and Next Generation Veterans, attended the February meeting to seek permission to use Veteran Memorial Island for part of a ruck march they were putting together to raise awareness of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). They explained that each participant could carry a rucksack containing 15 to 20 pounds of nonperishable food items, which would be donated to a local food bank to assist veterans. The ruck march ended on Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary with individuals speaking on PTSD and for a time of remembrance and prayer. The Committee unanimously approved their use of the Island for part of their ruck march.
- Mr. Doy Demsick, Veteran Council Next Generation Veterans, attend the February meeting to provide an update on the progress of Afghanistan/Iraqi memorials that were presented to the Committee in 2017. The group is establishing themselves as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and they are continuing to raise money for the projects.
- In March an organization called Lest We Forget, LLC introduced themselves to the Committee and made a presentation with an appeal for the Committee to make a recommendation to the City Council to allow them to lease a portion of Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary, which contained the Lest We Forget monument. The Assistant City Attorney informed the Committee that the City Council entered into a contract for legal representation pertaining to the Lest We Forget monument and the Committee was asked to refrain from making any comments or statements that could harm the City in litigation. The Committee declined to make any comments or recommendations.
- Mr. Patrick Williamson, Veterans Council Next Generation Veterans, attended the April meeting to share his plans set up the Boots on the Ground display again during the Memorial Day Ceremony. This was the second year he took on this project. In 2017 he displayed one (1) boot for every 25 military members who lost their lives since the 911 tragedy. His goal was to have more boots for this year.
- Mrs. Peggy Cunningham, Executive Director, and Mrs. Judith Lemoncelli, Director of Development and Communications of the Alzheimer and Parkinson Association, came to the August meeting to ask permission for their organization to use Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary on November 11, 2018 for part of their annual fundraiser “A Walk to Remember”. They were informed that the date they chose was the same day as the Veterans Day Ceremony on the Island, so they were asked to select a different weekend for their event.

The Committee unanimously approved their use of the Island as part of their walking route with a different date to be determined. At the September meeting the Alzheimer and Parkinson Association requested to use the Island on November 3, 2018 for their event. The Committee unanimously approved the new date. They had a successful event and the participants were respectful of Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary.

- Mr. Tony Young, City Councilmember, came to the August meeting to speak about the City's year long Centennial Celebration that would kick off in October 2018 and run through October 2019. He announced that there would also be a Veterans Parade on November 3, 2018 that was being organized by the Veterans Council and the Cultural Council. The parade was a very nice event, which started at the Community Center, went through downtown, and ended at the Cultural Arts Village area.
- At the September meeting, Mr. Jimmy Jackson, Veterans Council Next Generation Veterans, submitted an application to use the Island for a second ruck march to be held on September 22, 2018. This ruck march started and ended on Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary and the money raised went towards the fundraising of the Words From War Memorial and the Upward American Veterans program. The donated food that was collected went to the Food Pantry of Indian River County. Many local organizations participated in this successful event.
- The Veterans Memorial Island account currently has a balance of \$ ????? as of **Month ??**, 2018.
- 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.

JM/rh