

**VETERANS MEMORIAL ISLAND SANCTUARY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, January 2, 2019 – 10:00 a.m.
City Hall, Council Chambers, Vero Beach, Florida**

PRESENT: Chairman, John Michael Matthews, Members: Barbara Fallon, and Alternate Member, Sylvester McIntosh **Also Present:** Recreation Director, Rob Slezak; Public Works Manager, Don Dexter, Assistant City Attorney, Stefanie Beskovoyne, and Senior Administrative Assistant, Rita Hawkins

Excused Absences: Joel Herman, Curtis Paulisin, and Peggy Lyon

Unexcused Absence: Don Wickstrand

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) December 5, 2018

Mr. Matthews said that on page three (3) under old business the word *residence* needs to be corrected to *residents*. Further down the page Mr. Don Dexter's title is shown as *Publix* Work Manager, but it should be *Public* Works Manager.

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

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. NEW BUSINESS

A) Request to use Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary - Memorial Service for Carmen Yannetelli

Mr. Matthews stated that they received an application to use Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary for a memorial service. He stated that the correct spelling of his first name should be *Carmine* and not *Carmen* as it is listed on the paperwork. He stated that Mr. Yannetelli was a World War II Veteran and was very active in the community and with the Marine Corp League. The memorial service will be on January 12, 2019 at 12:00 p.m. and they are expecting approximately 35 to 50 people to be in attendance.

Ms. Fallon made a motion to approve the application to use Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary for Mr. Carmine Yannetelli's memorial service. Mr. McIntosh seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A) Recap of the Wreaths Across America Ceremony

Mr. Matthews stated that the wreaths were placed out at Crestlawn Cemetery and on the cenotaph markers on Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary. The wreaths are scheduled to be picked up on Saturday, January 5, 2019. They will start at 9:30 a.m. at the Cemetery and then go to Veterans Memorial Island to finish up there.

Mr. Tony Young, City Councilmember, stated that having the wreaths and the ceremony on Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary was everything they could want. It was a good opportunity for the people who have lost friend and loved ones to come together. He said that wreaths were also placed at the grove and many of the Gold Star Families took the opportunity of placing a wreath at the temporary markers. Mr. Young shared a couple of stories of individuals he met on the Island. He understands that there were about 100 wreaths provided for Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary. The wreaths were not only placed on the cenotaphs, but also on the service markers around the Island. He believes that next year they will have about 2,000 wreaths to display. He stated that the Boy Scouts from Palm Beach even came to help place the wreaths at the Crestlawn Cemetery.

Mr. Matthews stated that he knows there were enough wreaths for all the cenotaphs, but were there enough for all veterans in Crestlawn Cemetery. Mr. Young replied no. He said they had about 800 set aside for the veterans in Crestlawn, but his estimate is that they would need double that amount.

Mr. Matthews said that the wreaths are provided by donations made through the Wreaths Across America program.

B) Update on the Repair/Replacement of the Gold Star Families Plaque

Mr. Matthews asked for an update on the repair or replacement of the Gold Star family plaque.

Mr. Don Dexter, Public Works Manager, reported that the plaque has been put back in production, but he is not sure when they will get the plaque back. They decided not to take a chance with a repair not matching. He explained that the foundry still had the casting, so they decided to have it remade.

Mr. Matthews said that they mentioned at a previous meeting about the Gold Star Grove not being listed on the large map. He knows it is expensive to take it down and have it updated, but is there any other way they can write in the Gold Star Grove. Mr. Dexter said that would not be possible. The last time they remade the map it cost \$350 to \$400. The entire sign assembly needs some attention and the Next Generation Veterans also asked if there would be room on the map to designate the new monument, so they will look at doing all the repairs and updates at once.

Mr. Dexter reported that a couple of the Gold Star Grove trees were snapped by high winds, but they have replacements on order.

7. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

Mr. Matthews reported that he has been helping with the Centennial Committee and he is the Chairman for the parade. The big parade for the 100-year Anniversary of the City of Vero Beach will be on

October 26, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. The Veterans will be involved in the parade and they are trying to spread the word. There is an application available for anyone who would like to participate in the parade.

Mr. Matthews explained that he was contacted by a man whose mother was a World War II Veteran and she lived in Vero Beach for 50 years. She was a Royal Navy Veteran and the man asked him if it would be possible to honor her on Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary. Since she did not join the service while living in Vero Beach and it was not the American military, he knows that would not qualify for using the Island. He was wondering if anyone had any suggestions on what he could recommend to this Veteran's family. This is kind of an unusual request, but he did not want to ignore him.

Ms. Fallon said that perhaps they could give her an honorable mention at either the Veterans Day or the Memorial Day ceremony. Mr. Matthews said he would pass that by the Veterans Council to see if it is something they would do.

Mr. Young asked if she was a local resident. Mr. Matthews replied yes. She lived in Vero Beach for 50 years, she was a Royal Navy Veteran, and she was cremated.

Mr. Young said that the Committee might want to discuss and consider it, because a comparable person to this situation is James Dinsmore Tew Jr. He was from Vero Beach and he joined the Royal Air Force. He was shot down and he has a cenotaph marker on the Island. Mr. Matthews said that some individuals were recognized on the Island before the Ordinance was written with the current requirements.

Mr. Young stated that there will be two (2) cenotaph applications coming to the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee for consideration. One (1) is from Chris Clement whose son, Jonathan Clement, died last summer and the other one (1) is from Diana D'Angelo whose son was killed on active duty. He will also be submitting the eight (8) names that will go on the temporary markers for the Gold Star Grove trees. He said when he was speaking with the Next Generation Veterans they indicated that they will help with the cost of replacing the Buttonwood trees that were recently lost.

8. MEMBER'S MATTERS

None

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

A) Next Meeting Date – February 6, 2019

The next meeting of the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee is scheduled for February 6, 2019.

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

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