

**VETERANS MEMORIAL ISLAND SANCTUARY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, January 8, 2020 – 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, and Alternate Member, Peggy Lyon **Also Present:** Assistant City Attorney, Karen Emerson, Recreation Director, Rob Slezak, Assistant Public Works Director, Don Dexter, and Senior Administrative Assistant, Rita Hawkins

Excused Absences: Sylvester McIntosh and 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) November 6, 2019

Mr. Herman made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2019 Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee meeting. Ms. Fallon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A) Chairman

Mr. Mathews asked for nominations for Chairman.

Mr. Herman made a motion to nominate Mr. Matthews for Chairman. Ms. Fallon seconded the motion.

Ms. Fallon made a motion to maintain Mr. Matthews for Chairman and Mr. Herman for Vice Chairman. Mr. Herman seconded the motion. There were no other nominations and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Matthews was elected for Chairman and Mr. Herman was elected for Vice Chairman of the Veteran Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee.

B) Vice-Chairman

*Please note that items 4-A) and 4-B) were discussed together.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

6. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Don Dexter, Assistant Public Works Director, stated that a couple of months ago the City received a report from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) regarding repairs that needed to be done on the underside of the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary bridge. He explained that they have a consultant working on the plans and putting together the scope of work. He reported that another project in the budget this year is to fix the erosion problem along the seawalls on each side of the Causeway. They plan to raise the seawalls up a few feet to make them more level. The process will consist of laying down rip rap bags, also known as cement bags, to build a wall and fill in the backside with dirt. To keep the public safe, they will close the Causeway and Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary for about a week to do the work. He does not have a firm date yet, but it might be in March.

Mr. Paulisin asked if this work would be two (2) different work orders. Mr. Dexter replied yes. The reconstruction of the seawalls will be done before Memorial Day by the City and the bridge project will be contracted out, so more than likely that work will start after Memorial Day.

Mr. Matthews asked if the work on the bridge was more routine maintenance or structural issues. Mr. Dexter replied that there are no structural issues with the bridge. There is some minor spalling of the concrete and the straps that hold the pipes for the water and some electric lines need to be replaced.

Mr. Paulisin asked if the money for these projects will come from the City's funds. Mr. Dexter replied yes. They put money in the Capital budget for both of these projects. .

Mr. Matthews stated that he heard it will cost quite a bit to repair the bridge. Mr. Dexter explained that they budgeted \$100,000 or \$110,000 to do the repairs based on a rough estimate from a consultant who does bridge repairs. After they define the scope of work and they get the bids, it might come in less than that.

A) Annual Report

Mr. Matthews stated that they all received a copy of the Annual Report (on file in the City Clerk's office). He asked if there were any corrections or additions. The Commission members all agreed that the report was great.

Mr. Herman made a motion to approve the Annual Report as written. Ms. Fallon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A) Recap of the Words From War Monument Dedication – November 9, 2019

Mr. Matthews reported that the Words From War monument dedication was scheduled for November 9, 2019, but it was canceled due to rain. The groundbreaking actually took place on November 28, 2019 and they had a good turn out with some speakers with encouraging words to continue creating the monument. The Words From War monument is being constructed to honor all those who have served in the conflicts since 911.

Mr. Herman asked if the Next Generation Veterans have approached the City with the plans. Mr. Dexter replied that they have seen a portion of the plans. His understanding was that they were preparing the plans to submit them to the County Building Department to issue a permit.

B) Recap of the Veterans Day Ceremony – November 11, 2019

Mr. Matthews stated the Veterans Day ceremony was a great ceremony with the appropriate sights and sounds.

Mr. Herman said it is wonderful that the community comes out to support the ceremony. He agreed that there was a great turnout. Mr. Matthews stated that they printed 2,000 programs, but they did not hand them all out.

C) Recap of the Wreath Placement and Ceremony by Wreaths Across America – December 14, 2019

Mr. Matthews said another event that took place on the Island and in the community was the placing of the wreaths on the cenotaphs and the markers. The wreaths were placed out on December 14, 2019 and they were removed on January 4, 2020. He said it is nice to see the wreaths throughout the Island at Christmas.

Ms. Fallon said that she heard a short report on the National news about the placing of the wreaths at the Arlington Cemetery.

8. CHAIRMAN’S MATTERS

None

9. MEMBER’S MATTERS

Mr. Paulisin stated that this was a rough Christmas, because they lost quite a few great people. He said that Mr. Joseph Martorana passed away and he was a huge advocate of Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary. He said Mr. Martorana was 98 and he will be taken back up to New York to be with his family.

Mr. Matthews announced that Command Sargent Major Ed Britt also passed away during the holidays. He was another hero with a long career.

Ms. Fallon said she would like to thank Mr. Rob Slezak for everything he has done for the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee. He will be retiring and they will miss him.

Mr. Rob Slezak, Recreation Director, thanked the Committee and said yes, he will be retiring on January 31, 2020. He said he appreciates everything the Committee is doing. Mr. Matthews said that he will be missed and he has done a great job.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

A) February 5, 2020

The next meeting of the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee is scheduled for February 5, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Today's meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

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