

**VETERANS MEMORIAL ISLAND SANCTUARY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, February 6, 2019 – 10:00 a.m.
City Hall, Council Chambers, Vero Beach, Florida**

PRESENT: Chairman, John Michael Matthews, Members: Barbara Fallon, Curtis Paulisin, Don Wickstrand, Alternate Member #1, Sylvester McIntosh, and Alternate Member #2, Peggy Lyon **Also Present:** Recreation Director, Rob Slezak; Public Works Manager, Don Dexter, and Senior Administrative Assistant, Rita Hawkins

Excused Absences: Joel Herman

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) January 2, 2019

Ms. Fallon made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2019 Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee meeting. Mr. Paulisin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. NEW BUSINESS

A) Wreaths Across America Ceremony for 2019 – Mr. Rick Lewis

Mr. Matthews said that the Wreaths Across America Ceremony was held on Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary and it was a wonderful event for both Crestlawn Cemetery and the Island.

Mr. Joe Crowley and Mr. Rick Lewis, Wreaths Across America, introduced themselves.

Mr. Lewis said that they have plans of holding the Wreaths Across America program again this year. They came to today's meeting to ask permission to conduct the ceremonial service on Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary, which will be on December 14, 2019. They retired the 2018 event on January 5, 2019 and removing the wreaths only took about one (1) hour, because the participation was fantastic.

Mr. Crowley thanked the Commission for their support and allowing them to bring this program to Vero Beach for the first time. As they started raising money for the wreaths they were kind of concerted about the number of volunteers they would have. They ended up with about 300 volunteers at Crestlawn Cemetery and about 50 people came to Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary to help place the wreaths there. For Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary they raised enough money to place a wreath at each of the Service markers, the cenotaph markers, and at every tree of the Gold Star Family grove and it looked beautiful. The day after the wreaths were placed there was a bad storm with high winds and they knew the wreaths were going to be all over the Island. By the time they got out there to check on them, the people who walk the Island everyday had all the wreaths set back in place. That showed what the people of this community think of the Island and the ceremony. The event was great and better than they could have ever imagined. He thanked the Committee for all their support. He stated that Wreaths Across America will have a table set up at every Downtown Friday Fest to get the word out about the program and they will hold a raffle to help raise money. They also have a facebook page at Wreaths Across America Indian River County where people can make donations. This year they will be covering Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary, Crestlawn Cemetery, and also the cemetery in Sebastian. Their ultimate goal is to place a wreath at every Veterans grave in Indian River County. They are looking for the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee's approval to hold the ceremony on the Island again. They will be at many community events throughout the year to get the word out and they will be looking for sponsors.

Mr. Matthews said he was not there when the wreaths were placed, but he went out afterwards and took some pictures. It was beautiful. In order for them to use the Island this year they will need to complete the application form, so the date can be reserved for them. Mr. Lewis replied that he will get the application filled out and submitted.

B) Discussion of Future Cenotaph Markers for Jonathan Clement and Diana D'Angelo

Mr. Matthews stated that they received an application to use Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary and a couple of applications for new cenotaph markers (on file in the City Clerk's office).

Mr. Tony Young, City Councilmember, explained that Mr. Bruce Cady, Veterans Council President, asked him to pick up three (3) applications from him, as he was not able to attend today's meeting. The most pressing application is a request from Michael Radock, United States Army, to hold a promotional ceremony on the Island. He gave a brief background on Mr. Radok's military history. He said the ceremony will be held on March 2, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. They are requesting to use the bench area at the center of Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary and they are expecting about 30 people to attend.

Mr. Matthews said this request meets all the requirements to use Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary and the Island is an appropriate place for recognizing retirements and promotions.

Ms. Fallon made a motion to approve the application to use Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary for a promotional ceremony for Michael Radock. Mr. McIntosh seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Young stated that there are two (2) more applications for new cenotaph markers. The first one (1) is for Edward Troy Reynolds who is the son of Diana D'Angelo. Edward Reynolds was originally considered for a temporary marker at one (1) of the trees in Gold Star Family Grove. After reviewing

his information it was determined that he actually qualified for a cenotaph marker. He gave some brief background on Edward Troy Reynolds and stated that he was killed while on active duty in an auto accident.

Mr. Paulisin made a motion to approve the application for a cenotaph marker to be placed on Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary for Edward Troy Reynolds. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Young said that it is up to the Committee, but he would like to recommend that the marker include his name, Edward Troy Reynolds, and his date of death, which is November 26, 1979. Mr. Matthews asked if the branch of service can be listed on the marker as well. Mr. Young replied that some of the cenotaph markers have just the name and others have the name and the death date.

Mr. Young said that the second application for a new cenotaph marker is from the Clement family. Jonathan Richard Clement was killed in an accident last year. He had 12 years of service and the family is requesting a cenotaph marker. He said he is also recommending that his name and date of death be placed on the marker.

Ms. Fallon made a motion to approve the application for a new cenotaph marker for Jonathan Clement to be placed on Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary. Mr. Paulisin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Paulisin asked if they are still getting cenotaph markers from the same company. Mr. Don Dexter, Public Works Manager, replied that it has been a few years since they ordered any, so he will need to check and verify the prices. He believes that in the past, the funds in the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary account have been used to pay for the cenotaph markers. Once he has a price quote he will bring it back to the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee, so they can make a request to the City Council to use those funds.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A) Recap of the Memorial Service for Carmine Yannetelli

Mr. Matthews said a memorial service was held for Carmine “Yank” Yannetelli who was a Marine during World War II and was a Purple Heart recipient. Many people attended the ceremony and the Marines were there to provide the rattle volley. The bugler was Marine Heath Harris and the Marine Captain presented the flag to the widow. Mr. Wickstrand said it was a nice ceremony. Mr. Matthews stated that Mr. Yannetelli was 96, so he had a nice long life.

7. CHAIRMAN’S MATTERS

Mr. Matthews said at their March meeting they will hold the Election of Officers, so he asked the Committee members to give some thought as to whom they would like to nominate for Chairman and Vice Chairman. He said one (1) item he has from the Centennial Committee is the announcement of the Parade on October 26, 2019. He said Mrs. Linda Hillman and himself are the Cochairmen of the Parade Committee and it will be a huge event. Staging for the parade will be at the Vero Beach High School and they might need some volunteers to help organize the participants and get them ready to head down 14th Avenue.

8. MEMBER'S MATTERS

Mr. Paulisin announced that there will be a golf tournament again this year, but he is putting it together with the Vietnam Veterans of Indian River County. He said the Government does a good job helping the Veterans, but the community can do so much more and make it more personable. The golf tournament will be on June 15, 2019 at Sandridge Golf Club and they hope to raise \$30,0000. The funds will go to the Vietnam Veterans for their cause of providing homes for the Veterans. He will have more information at a later date.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

A) Next Meeting Date – March 6, 2019

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

10. ADJOURNMENT

Today's meeting adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

/rh