

**SPECIAL CALL VETERANS MEMORIAL ISLAND SANCTUARY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, February 12, 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, Don Wickstrand, and Alternate Member, Peggy Lyon **Also Present:** City Attorney, John Turner, Assistant Public Works Director, Don Dexter, and Senior Administrative Assistant, Rita Hawkins

Unexcused 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. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

4. ITEM FOR DISCUSSION

A) Funding of the Gold Star Grove Plaque for Mr. Joseph M. Canalichio

Mr. Matthews announced that they are here today to discuss the funding of the Gold Star Grove plaque for Mr. Joseph Canalichio. At their February 5th meeting the Committee approved an additional marker at the Gold Star Grove, but they did not discuss who was going to pay for it. The Gold Star Family plaque and the other markers were paid for by the American Legion Post 39. He said he heard that there might be some donation coming in.

Ms. Fallon said that was going to be her first question, where did the funding come from for the other markers and would that be the precedence for adding more markers.

Mr. Matthews replied that the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary has an account that they can use to pay for the plaque. In the past there have been items paid for by Veteran Organizations and others were paid for by the City.

Mr. Paulisin said he read the current City Resolution and he thinks they need to know how much will the marker cost.

Mr. Don Dexter, Assistant Public Works Director, reported the price for the marker is a \$170 and the post that it is mounted on costs \$20 to \$30, so \$200 should be a good figure.

Mr. Paulisin said he knows that Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary has the funds and that money is set aside for cenotaphs and maintenance. They were told that these were temporary markers and they would be replaced every seven (7) to eight (8) years, so he does not think that the Island account should pay for them. When the Gold Star Mothers came to them along with Mayor Young that was not the understanding. He thinks they should find another avenue for the funding.

Mr. Matthews explained that the money given by the American Legion Post 39 for the Gold Star Grove was put into the Veterans Memorial Island account, but the City used the funds from that account to do the work. If or when donations come in the money will go into the account and the Commission would still need to ask the City Council to release the funds to pay for the marker.

Mr. Tony Young, Mayor, stated that the eight (8) memorials and the plaque for the Gold Star Family Grove were paid for by a donation from the American Legion Post 39, so that is how everything has been paid for to date. He expects that Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary will continue to receive donations, because people love it. The Island is there to acknowledge the sacrifices of these men and the funds are available to honor these Veterans. He believes that contributions will come in which will pay for it even if the Veteran Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee asks to pay for it now out of the account. The end result is that it comes out of the Veterans Memorial Island fund. There is over \$11,500 in the Veterans Memorial Island account so he thinks it is within the intent of the Committee to support these types of things.

Mr. Paulisin stated that he knows that the Vietnam Veterans, The Next Generation Veterans, and the Korean War Veterans all paid for the cost of their monuments. He believes they will probably get the funds to cover the \$200, but he does not want to set a precedence.

Ms. Fallon said that she understands where Mr. Paulisin is coming from. These families are Indian River County residents, but the Gold Star Mothers are not. She believes that the American Legion Post 39 took it upon themselves to sponsor the initial part, but she agrees that they should wait for the funds before they make an approval to spend anything.

Mr. Matthews stated that he has heard over the past few days that donations might come in. The Committee approved the marker and any donation they receive will go into the Veterans Memorial Island account.

Mayor Young said that he understands that the Committee would like the individual or family to absorb the cost, but he does not see that happening. Regarding the Gold Star Mothers, they are the American Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County Chapter.

Mr. Matthews said if they paid for this out of the account, the City Resolution is clear that they would not pay for other monuments to go on the Island.

Mr. Wickstrand asked if the donations that are coming in are specific to the Gold Star Grove or for Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary in general.

Mr. Matthews replied that he has only heard about donations, but he does not think that has happened yet.

Mr. Herman agreed that when the proposal was made they should have had the funding set aside for it. He knows that the Gold Star Mothers are big supporters of the Island, so he would like to vote for this. He asked how soon could the marker be installed.

Mr. Dexter replied that the plaque will take four (4) to six (6) weeks to be manufactured, so once the City Council approves it he will place the order.

Mayor Young explained that the reason for this Special Call meeting was to get it approved and on the next City Council agenda for February 18th.

Mr. Herman made a motion to fund the marker. Mr. Wickstrand seconded the motion.

Mr. Herman modified the motion to include that they ask the City Council to expend up to \$200 from the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary account to pay for the marker at the Gold Star Grove. The motion passed 4 - 1 with Mr. Paulisin voting no.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Today's meeting adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

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