

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

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

**Excused Absences:** Joel Herman, 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) February 6, 2019**

Mr. Paulisin said that there was one (1) thing on the last page of the February minutes he would like to correct. Where he was speaking about the Golf Tournament he would like to clarify that the money raised by the tournament is mainly used to help the homeless Veterans.

**Ms. Fallon made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2019 Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee meeting as amended. Mrs. Lyon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

**4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**A) Chairman**

Mr. Matthews stated that since the City Council had their election and selected the Mayor and Vice Mayor the next step it for the Commissions to hold their Election of Officers. He asked to open up the meeting for nominations for Chairman of the Veteran Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee.

**Ms. Fallon made a motion to nominate Mr. John Michael Matthews for Chairman. Mr. McIntosh seconded the motion. There were no other nominations and the motion passed**

**unanimously. Mr. Matthews was elected as Chairman of the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee.**

**B) Vice-Chairman**

Mr. Mathews asked for nominations for Vice Chairman.

**Ms. Fallon made a motion to nominate Mr. Joel Herman for Vice Chairman. Mr. McIntosh seconded the motion and with no other nominations the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Herman was elected as Vice Chairman of the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee.**

Mr. Matthews stated that he hopes Mr. Herman will accept the Vice Chairman nomination.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**A) Salvation Army National Donut Day - Elaine McNeal**

Mr. Matthews invited Mrs. Elaine McNeal with the Salvation Army to come to the podium to talk about National Donut Day.

Mrs. Elaine McNeal, Volunteer Coordinator for the Salvation Army of Indian River County, thanked the Committee for allowing her to come to today's meeting to speak with them. She explained that National Donut Day started in 1938 by the Salvation Army in Chicago, Illinois. It was started as a fundraiser, because they needed funds to help the people during the great depression and a way to honor the Salvation Army lassies who served during World War I (WWI) with the soldiers. National Donut Day is celebrated on the first Friday of June each year. The Salvation Army lassies made fresh complimentary donuts for the American soldiers who served in France during WWI. It was two (2) American lassies who cleverly came up with the idea to fry donuts, because they wanted to provide something to the soldiers. Very quickly the aroma from the fresh baked goods filled the air and made the homesick soldiers feel like they were at home. The Salvation Army also supplied the soldiers with writing supplies and stamps and helped mend their clothes. The tradition of serving donuts continued through WWI and again in the Vietnam War. Any Veteran from these wars is likely to remember the donut girls and how the delicious donuts reminded them of home. National Donut Day is a way for the Salvation Army to look back and remember those men and women who went to help out service men overseas. She said that for several years the Salvation Army has wanted to put together an event for Veterans. Because the first Friday of June is so close to Memorial Day their thought was, if they can get permission they would like to set up a canteen in the parking lot near Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary to give out free coffee and donuts to Veterans, or anyone who wants them. They thought they would hand out the donuts from 7:00 to 8:30 a.m., so it

would not interfere with the Memorial Day Ceremony. They would like to get this advertised through the Veterans Council, so they can get the word out to all the Veterans who would like to take part in this. They want the Veterans to know that they are being recognized and the Salvation Army is doing this for them.

Mr. Matthews stated that since they will not be on the Island it is out of their area, but with it being on Memorial Day and very close to Veterans Memorial Island they do like to hear about these events. He believes the Salvation Army will need to get approval from the City for using the Park, but it sounds like a good idea. He asked if they would close up shop before the Ceremony began. Mrs. McNeal stated yes that they will close down their stand before the Memorial Day event begins. She said they have a canteen that they would normally set up, but they could use a tent and tables if the City prefers.

Mr. Paulisin said the High School band is always there early setting up and a lot of them probably have a family member or a relative who is a veteran. This would be nice for them.

Mr. Matthews explained that the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee approves what takes place on the Island, but the Memorial Day and Veterans Day Ceremonies are conducted by the Veterans Council. Mrs. McNeal replied that she will be speaking to the Veterans Council later today as well.

Mrs. Lyon suggested that Mrs. McNeal speak with Mr. Monte Falls, Acting City Manager, because he will have purview over that section of the Park. She should be able to get permission through him or Mr. Rob Slezak, Recreation Director.

Mr. Lebford (spelling may not be correct), Veteran, said that he volunteers and works with the Salvation Army quite a bit. One (1) thing they are concerned about is that they don't want any litter on the Island and they will set up several trash cans. They will not use styrofoam cups, because the wind blows them. They will try to make sure people don't carry things onto the Island, but if that happens he will be responsible for cleaning up the Island afterwards. He hopes this will be a huge success, because Indian River County does so much for the Veterans. Most of the people who come to the Memorial Day Ceremony are Veterans, or have a Veteran in their family. He feels it would be a great honor to shine another light on this community by showing their support of the Veterans.

Mr. Matthews said it is not up to the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee to approve or not approve this function, but the City Manager would like to know if it is okay by the Committee and the Veterans Council. Mr. Matthews said the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee is in favor of their plans.

## **7. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A) Update on Vendor and Price for New Cenotaph Markers**

Mr. Don Dexter, Public Work's Manager, reported that he received the price quotes for the new cenotaph markers. The stones for the base will be roughly \$500 each and the bronze plaques will

cost about \$200 each. He recommends that they submit a quest to the City Council to expend up to \$1,400 from the Veterans Memorial Island Fund. Once it is approved by the City Council they will move forward and place the order.

Mrs. Fallon asked if that was for two (2) markers. Mr. Dexter replied yes.

Mr. Paulisin asked if they will be ordered from the company in Pennsylvania. Mr. Dexter replied that the bronze markers will come from the foundry in Pennsylvania, but the stones will be supplied by a local company.

## **8. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS**

Mr. Matthews announced that it was 74 years ago when they had the battle of Iwo Jima where 6,000 Marines and Sailors died and nearly 20,000 were injured. There were also all the ensuing battles and what the World War II Veterans did for the world.

Mr. Matthews said he is sure that everyone knows the City is turning 100 this year and they will have a Centennial parade, which might be the biggest parade they have ever had. He said that the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee could be in the parade if they wanted to be. He announced that the deadline for accepting application to be in the parade is July 26, 2019 and the application is available on the Verobeach100.org website.

Mr. Matthews announced that a Veteran Navy SEAL, Gary Purdy, died a couple of weeks ago. He was the Commander of the American Veterans (AMVETS) Post for many years in Vero Beach and he did a lot for the Veterans and homeless Veterans in the community. The SEAL Museum will give him the honor and respect he deserves by taking his ashes out to sea in what they call a "swim out". This will probably happen during the annual Navy SEAL Museum muster 5K event this year.

## **9. MEMBER'S MATTERS**

Ms. Fallon stated that people can also go to the COVB.org website to find the Centennial calendar of events.

Mr. Matthews said the parade will include the Clydesdales, the Vero Beach High School band, a Wells Fargo stagecoach, the Cattlemen's Association who will have a cattle drive, antique cars, businesses of all sorts, Veterans Clubs, etc.

Mr. Paulisin announced that the annual Veterans Golf Tournament will be held at Sandridge Golf Club on Saturday, June 15, 2019. It is filling up quickly, so anyone who wants to play or needs more information can call Mary Snyder at (772) 567- 2217. He also stated that there is a new administrator for the VA Hospital in West Palm Beach and she will be at the tournament to introduce herself and to watch her husband and son play golf.

Mrs. Lyon asked Mr. Matthews where does the Centennial parade launch and where does it end, so that the public knows what streets might be closed.

Mr. Matthews explained that the staging areas will be in the parking lot behind the High School stadium, Graves Field, and along 17<sup>th</sup> Street. The parade will go up 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue past the Community Center and it will dismiss just past 26<sup>th</sup> Street. He was told it is about 1.1 miles. The parade kicks off the festivities for the day where they will have food trucks, bands, vendors, and activities throughout the day.

**10. NEXT MEETING DATE**

**A) Next Meeting Date – April 3, 2019**

The next meeting of the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee is scheduled for April 3, 2019.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Today's meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

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