

**VETERANS MEMORIAL ISLAND SANCTUARY  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Wednesday, April 3, 2019 – 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 #1, Sylvester McIntosh **Also Present:** Recreation Director, Rob Slezak; and Senior Administrative Assistant, Rita Hawkins

**Excused Absence:** Peggy Lyon

**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) March 6, 2019**

Mr. Wickstrand said one (1) thing he noticed was under New Business on page 2. Towards the middle of the paragraph, it said the tradition of serving donuts continued on through *World War I*, but that should read *World War II*.

**Ms. Fallon made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2019 Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee meeting with the one (1) correction. Mr. McIntosh seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

Mr. Matthew stated that they had their Election of Officers at their last meeting and they elected Mr. Herman as Vice Chairman while he was absent. He asked Mr. Herman if he accepts the nomination of Vice Chairman. Mr. Herman replied yes.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

**A) Request for use of the Island – Indian River County Victims' Rights Coalition**

Mr. Matthews announced that they received an application to use Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary from the Indian River County Victims' Rights Coalition. He said they have been holding this Ceremony

for decades and the date of this year's Ceremony will be on April 11, 2019. They are always very respectful of the Island and it is an appropriate ceremony.

**Mr. Herman made a motion to accept the application. Ms. Fallon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

**B) Request for use of the Island – Veterans Council of Indian River County**

Mr. Matthews stated that they received a second request to use the Island from the Veterans Council of Indian River County for the Memorial Day Ceremony. The Ceremony starts at 9:00 a.m., but people will start arriving earlier. They will print 1,500 programs, because that seems to be about the right amount based on past years.

**Ms. Fallon made a motion to accept the request. Mr. Wickstrand seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

**C) Memorial Day Ceremony – May 27, 2019**

Mr. Herman suggested that Mr. Matthews mention the boots on the ground display that will be part of the Memorial Day Ceremony. He asked if the boots will be set out on the Island the night before and if there will be someone there throughout the night keeping watch. Mr. Matthews replied that is correct.

Mr. Matthews stated that last year the Memorial Day service had to be moved to the Vero Beach High School Performing Arts Center due to weather conditions. He explained that Mr. Patrick Williamson, Veterans Council Next Generation Veterans, has done a lot by collecting the boots, storing them away, and sorting them all back out for the next Ceremony. He said the boots on the ground display is a very moving tribute. He explained that Memorial Day is to honor those that died in the service of this Country and it is a solemn Ceremony. Mr. Matthews went through the draft program that he provided to the Committee members (on file in the City Clerk's office). The tribute to the fallen item listed on the program is to recognize the two (2) new cenotaph markers and they will be dedicating the Gold Star Grove. There will be plaques on eight (8) of the trees in the grove recognizing individuals of local families that died in action. The Memorial Day program is not finalized yet, so there might be some small changes.

Mr. Paulisin suggested that they mention or give special recognition to the Red Cross, since they will be out there before the ceremony handing out coffee and donuts. Mr. Matthews said that is a good point and he will make a note of that.

**6. OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Matthews stated that March 29<sup>th</sup> was Vietnam Veterans Day. There was a Proclamation issued by the President of the United States in 2012 commemorating of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the war, which went on for 13 years. From 2012 through 2025, every March 29<sup>th</sup> will be a 50-year Anniversary of the Vietnam War.

Mr. Matthews said that the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee already approved the concept of the Red Cross serving coffee and donuts on Memorial Day. It also had to go to the Veterans Council, but ultimately it will be the City Manager who will approve their request. He said he believes the Red Cross plans on setting up their area somewhere between the entrance to the Island and the boat ramps. They will hand out the coffee and donuts from 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., so they will be done before the Memorial Day Ceremony begins. Mr. Herman said that they need to make sure it is approved before it is added to the Memorial Day program. The Senior Administrative Assistant said that she would check on it.

Mr. Matthews announced that the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the City of Vero Beach includes a Centennial Parade, which will be on October 26, 2019. They want to spread the word, because anyone who would like to be in the parade needs to submit an application. The applications can be found on the City's website or at VeroBeach100.org. This might be the biggest parade they have ever had in Indian River County.

## **7. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS**

None

## **8. MEMBER'S MATTERS**

Mr. Paulisin announced that the Vietnam Veterans Golf Tournament will take place on June 15, 2019. Right now they have 140 people signed up, but they can accept up to 180. He stated that Winn Dixie is going to be one (1) of their major sponsors. Winn Dixie is selling Veterans Council reusable shopping bags and \$1 of each sale goes back to the Veterans Council.

Mr. Herman asked if the Golf Tournament will sell out. Mr. Paulisin replied that they already have 140 people signed up and he has not done anything but go to the City Council with the information. All the money raised stays in Indian River County and is going towards the construction of a new home for homeless veterans.

## **9. NEXT MEETING DATE**

### **A) Next Meeting Date – May 1, 2019**

The next meeting of the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee is scheduled for May 1, 2019.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

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

/rh