

**VETERANS MEMORIAL ISLAND SANCTUARY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, May 3, 2023 – 9:30 a.m.
City Hall, Council Chambers, Vero Beach, Florida**

PRESENT: Chairman, John Matthews; Vice Chairman, Michelle Dale; Members: Curtis Paulisin and Carolyn Lange **Also Present:** City Attorney, John Turner and Deputy City Clerk, Sherri Philo

Excused Absence: Melissa Arndt

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Matthews called today's meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Matthews led the Committee members and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Mr. Matthews added to today's agenda a request from the Veterans Council to use Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary for the Memorial Day Ceremony.

Mr. Matthews made a motion to approve the use of Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary for the Memorial Day Ceremony on May 29, 2023. Mrs. Dale seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) April 5, 2023

Mr. Paulisin made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2023 Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee meeting. Mrs. Lange seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Richard Lewis, Wreaths Across America, said that they are requesting use of the Island on December 16, 2023, from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for the Ceremony and for laying wreaths on the Island. He reported that he turned in the paperwork a few weeks ago and he hoped that the Committee would have received it by now.

Mr. Matthews said they have not received the paperwork yet, but they have time to get approval and he was sure that the Committee would approve it.

Mr. Lewis said they do understand that they might have to come up with a Plan B if the bridge to the Island is not completed by then.

Mr. Matthews asked what would be their Plan B if they can't get onto the Island. Mr. Lewis said they have not discussed it yet, but his thoughts would be to hold the Ceremony at the gazebo and place wreaths at the entrance of the Island or just hold everything at Crestlawn Cemetery.

Mr. Tony Young gave the names and backgrounds of three (3) World War II Veterans that were going to be honored in May and where their cenotaphs are located (attached to the original minutes).

5. NEW BUSINESS

None

6. OLD BUSINESS

A) Update on Memorial Day – May 29, 2023

Mr. Matthews reported that the Memorial Day Ceremony will take place on Monday, May 29, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. on the Island.

Mr. Tony Young reported that planning for the Ceremony is underway and they expect it to be similar to what has been done in the past.

B) Update on the Bridge Replacement

Mr. Richard Mutterback, Assistant Director of Public Works, said that he does not have any new updates at this time.

C) Update on the Merchant Marines Monument – Mr. Ross Rowlinson

Mr. Ross Rowlinson briefly went over the program for the World War II Merchant Marine Memorial Unveiling Ceremony with the Committee members (on file in the City Clerk's office).

Mr. Mutterback said staff needs clarification on where the informational plaque is to be placed on the monument. He asked the Committee members if they had a preference.

Mr. Matthews said the plaque should be placed on the front of the monument. The Committee members agreed.

D) Update on the Stage and World War II Tribute

Mr. Tony Young gave a brief update on the stage and World War II Tribute. He reported that Schulke, Stoddard and Bittle provided the structural engineering plans for the architect on Friday. Once the architect makes the final adjustments it would then go to Bill Bryant Construction and then they would have the opportunity to look at the costs associated with it. He reported that Mrs. Sharon Sexton and Ms. Glenda Taylor, who did the tile work at Royal Palm Pointe will be doing the tile work for the ribbons.

Mrs. Barbara Ruddy reported that the 21st Amendment Distillery donated 250 bottles of bourbon whiskey that they are selling for \$250 each with all the profits going toward the World War II Tribute.

7. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

Mr. Matthews reported that the Marine Corp Birthday Ball will be held on Saturday, November 11, 2023 at Oak Harbor. The City and the County will be presenting a Proclamation honoring the Veterans for Memorial Day on May 16, 2023.

8. MEMBER'S MATTERS

Mr. Paulisin submitted two (2) checks to Mr. Matthews made out to the Cultural Council for the WWII Monument. One (1) check was in the amount of \$350 from the Veterans of Indian River County and the other check was from him and his wife.

Mr. Paulisin reported that the Veterans of Indian River County Golf Tournament would be held on June 17, 2023 at Sandridge Golf Course and the funds raised would be used to assist the homeless or soon to be homeless with housing.

Mrs. Dale thanked everyone who attended the Vero Beach High School's Red White and Blue concert. She said Sunday's performance honored the WWII Veterans in Indian River County. She said there were 13 veterans who attended and she was able to call their names and their branch and have each of them stand. She said the applause was outstanding. She said that she had people were telling her that this was the best concert that they have ever had.

Ms. Dale reported that the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., Department of Florida Puerto Rico would be holding their 70th Annual Convention in Vero Beach on Saturday, May 6, 2023.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

A) June 7, 2023

The next meeting of the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, June 7, 2023 at 9:30 a.m., in the City Hall, Council Chambers.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Today's meeting adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

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