

**VETERANS MEMORIAL ISLAND SANCTUARY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, August 1, 2018 – 10:00 a.m.
City Hall, Council Chambers, Vero Beach, Florida**

PRESENT: Chairman, John Matthews, Vice Chairman, Joel Herman, Members: Barbara Fallon, Curtis Paulisin, Don Wickstrand, Alternate Member #1, Sylvester McIntosh, and Alternate Member #2, Peggy Lyon **Also Present:** Public Works Manager, Don Dexter, Assistant City Attorney, Stefanie Beskovoyne, and Senior Administrative Assistant, Rita Hawkins

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.

Mr. Matthews asked permission from the Commission to add Mr. Tony Young, City Councilmember, to today's agenda under New Business to discuss the Gold Star Family Grove and the City of Vero Beach Centennial Celebration. The Commission was unanimously in favor of adding Mr. Young to the agenda.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) June 6, 2018

Mr. Herman made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2018 Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee meeting. Ms. Fallon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. NEW BUSINESS

A) Request for use of Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary for the Alzheimer & Parkinson Association's Walk to Remember – Mrs. Margaret Cunningham and Mrs. Judy Lemoncelli

Mr. Matthews stated that the day the Alzheimer and Parkinson Association is requesting to use Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary is the same day as the Veterans Day Ceremony, which takes place on the Island at 9:00 a.m. He explained that Veterans Day is actually on Sunday, November 11, 2018, so the Veterans Council moved the ceremony to Saturday, November 10, 2018.

Mrs. Margaret Cunningham, Executive Director, replied that they scheduled their event through the Recreation Department, but they were not told there was a conflict. She will follow up on this and if they need to change the date they will.

Mr. Matthews asked Mrs. Cunningham to proceed with her presentation with the idea that the event might take place on a different date.

Mrs. Cunningham said their organization has always held their event at Riverside Park and they recognize the veterans by bringing them up on the stage during the National Anthem. About four (4) years ago they started requesting to use Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary for part of their walk. She said signs are displayed and the walkers are reminded to remain quiet and respectful of the Island as they go through that part of the walk. She explained that the Alzheimer & Parkinson Association started off as support groups and when they moved into their current location they started developing programs for families who are taking care of someone with dementia. They also have classes for people with Parkinson's disease. They serve many veterans in both of their programs and they provide these support service to families in Indian River County. The Alzheimer & Parkinson Association does not receive any Government funding and they only receive money from local grants, fundraisers, and private donations, so they are self-sufficient. There will be 400 to 500 walkers and informational support groups to help raise awareness of Alzheimer & Parkinson, so they would again like to have permission to use the Island for part of their walk.

Mr. Matthews asked if they should approve them using the Island without a date.

Mr. Paulisin asked if they should table this until they have a date for the record.

Ms. Stefanie Beskovoyne, Assistant City Attorney, stated that the City Manager issues the permit, so if they are going to amend the permit that can be handled administratively. She said the Committee can approve the walk itself and a condition can be added to it regarding the date.

Ms. Fallon made a motion to approve the use of Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary for part of the Alzheimer & Parkinson Association's Walk to Remember with a date to be approved at a future time. Mr. Paulisin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Young recommended to Mrs. Cunningham that they move their event to Saturday, November 17, 2018. He explained that on November 3, 2018 the Cultural Council and the Veteran Council are hosting a parade for the veterans and historic Vero Beach. He wants to make sure people are available to attend and support the Alzheimer & Parkinson Associations event, so that is why he is recommending November 17, 2018.

B) Discussion on Korean War Tribute held on July 27, 2018

Mr. Matthews announced that there was a tribute on July 27, 2018 for the Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, but he was out of town and unable to attend this event.

Mr. McIntosh stated that he attended the Korean War Veterans tribute and it turned out nicely. A member of the Korean War Veterans Association was the speaker and he was very good. There were about 50 people in attendance and he was asked to give the invocation.

Mr. Matthews said it is sad, but sweet that remains of veterans are still coming back from Korea.

Mr. McIntosh said that Mr. Patrick Williamson, Veterans Council, was in full uniform and he walked the wreath to the Korean War monument.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A) Recap of the Memorial Service for John E. Wilson Jr.

Mr. Matthews announced that there was a memorial service for John E. Wilson Jr. on Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary, but he was not able to attend that event either. The family requested to use the Island to honor and remember their family member. His ashes were scattered in the water off the edge of the Island near the Army memorial.

B) Update on the Progress of the Veterans Council Next Generation Veterans Monuments

Mr. Matthews said he thought that someone would be at today's meeting to give them an update on the Veterans Council Next Generation Veterans monument that will be located off the Island on the Southeast side of the small circle. They are eager to hear about it and help with this project. About a year ago this Committee also approved a monument or memorial for the Iraq, Afghanistan, War on Terrorism, and other operations with this ongoing conflict. This Committee is not responsible for putting a monument on the Island, but he hopes one (1) will be placed there that is with the keeping of the size and style of the other memorials. He said the monument that will be located off the Island is called the "Words of War" and the Veterans Council Next Generation Veterans goal is to raise \$300,000. He understands that they currently have about \$60,000, so they are making progress.

Mr. Young stated that he came to today's meeting to share some information on the Centennial Celebration. He announced that the City of Vero Beach will be turning 100 years old in 2019 and it has been a collective effort to prepare for this occasion. He is a co-chairman of the Centennial Committee along with Mrs. Tammy Bursick, City Clerk. Mrs. Peggy Lyon has been a big help in creating a timeline of events. The Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary will be the host location for the Veterans Day celebration that will take place on November 10, 2018. There are many stakeholders for the Centennial and their intent is to identify the landmarks in the community and identify the stakeholders. He will ask that a copy of the Centennial calendar be provided to the Committee members (on file in the City Clerk's office). He said if individuals, businesses, or organizations want to have a party on their own they are welcome and encouraged to do so. The Centennial involves families, civic and faith organizations, the art and historical community, and many others. He continued with announcing several of the events that will take place over the course of the year starting in October, 2018.

Mr. Matthews said he understands that the Walking Tree Brewery will be brewing up a special beer for the occasion. Mr. Young explained that both the Walking Tree Brewery and the American Icon Brewery will both be helping the City celebrate.

Mr. Young discussed other events including the Parade, the New Year's Eve celebration, and the Founders Day event.

Mr. Matthews asked for more information on the Veterans Parade that is scheduled for November 3rd. Mr. Young stated that it is a work in progress between the Veterans Council and the Cultural Council to highlight downtown Vero Beach and the Arts District.

Mrs. Lyon stated that the agenda is quite large and it changes almost daily, but if they look through it they will see what an incredible party this is going to be.

Mr. Young stated that the Historical Society will have a dedicatory marker placed on Royal Palm Pointe, because that is where the original bridge crossed the Lagoon.

Ms. Beskovoyne asked if they have a hashtag yet. Mr. Young replied not yet, but they have a website and a facebook page. Ms. Beskovoyne explained that they can use the hashtag on their facebook account and link instagram to it, so everyone can see all the pictures people post on instagram without having to follow them on facebook.

Mr. Matthews explained that it will be a year long celebration. Mr. Young replied that is correct and there is no way they could have accomplished this any other way.

Mr. Herman asked if anyone has invited the Navy Seal Museum to be involved in some way.

Mr. Young replied that they have not contacted them.

Mr. Young reported that after the last hurricane there was extensive damage done to Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary, including the loss of the Holly Trees that lined each side of the Cenotaph Square. He thought that with the Centennial there might be the opportunity to replace those trees and focus on the Gold Star families. Recently 10 Green Buttonwood Trees were donated to replace the Holly Trees. He said he reached out to the Gold Star families and asked if they would be interested in having the grove of trees earmarked for the Gold Star families and if they were amendable to that suggestion. If the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee approves this, the concept is to erect a monument with a plaque stating that the grove of trees is in dedication to the Gold Star families. Temporary markers with the names of the fallen men from this community that are not recognized with cenotaphs could be placed near each of the trees. He believes there are eight (8) men from this area and the cost of the plaques can be supported by a sponsor, such as a Veteran's Organization or another group. He asked if this would be something this Committee would support. If so, he will continue to work on it. As part of the Veterans celebration in November they would also highlight the grove of trees as being part of what the veterans have done for the community.

Mr. Matthews asked if the temporary plaque with the names of the local veterans would only be displayed during Veterans Day and Memorial Day. Mr. Young replied that they would be displayed on small posts and once they are gone they will not be replaced, because the requirements of the Island stipulate that no permanent markers recognizing individuals can be on the Island, other than the cenotaphs.

Mr. Matthews stated that the people who are affected the most are the Gold Star families, so he believes a monument would be appropriate. Mr. Young handed out a flyer with a photo of a monument and information on the Gold Star Family grove (on file in the City Clerk's office). He said it could be a stone with a plaque or some other low-key designation that could be placed on the Island near the grove of trees.

Mr. Herman said this would be a wonderful thing to do, but it is not in tradition with the other size monuments on the Island. He suggested that they make the monument larger, so that it is noticed by people visiting the Island.

Mr. Matthews agreed that it should be on a pedestal or a larger stone so that it is visible if people are walking through the cenotaph square.

Mr. Young asked if the Committee is in support of this concept. Mr. Matthews stated that they all like the idea of honoring those families and those who died while serving.

Ms. Fallon said that Mr. Young will need to present them with a proposal.

Mr. Matthews said in the City Ordinance for Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary he believes it specifies that a project like this needs to be proposed by a Veteran's Organization.

Mr. Young replied that he spoke with the American Legion, because he thought that would be the most appropriate Organization to support this. The American Legion said they would be interested in it, but they need to take the information back to their leadership.

Mr. Matthews sated that they would need to see actual plans for the monument before they move it forward.

Ms. Fallon made a motion that the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee approve the Gold Star Families Memorial monument with the stipulation that they are provided with a design and a proposal. Mr. McIntosh seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Herman asked when will the names be added to the plaque. Mr. Young explained that there will not be any individual names on it. It will be a general plaque stating that the grove of trees is dedicated in honor of the Gold Star families that have lost loved ones in support of the Country.

Mr. Matthews commented that today they approved the concept of a monument for the Gold Star families, but they will still need to discuss the temporary signs with the individual names on them.

7. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

Mr. Matthews announced that August 7, 2018 is National Purple Heart Day. This is the day they honor those who were wounded in combat.

8. MEMBER'S MATTERS

Mr. Paulisin announced that the Veterans Outreach golf tournament was a huge success. They had over 160 golfers and the proceeds are going towards the purchase of new busses used for transporting veterans.

Mr. Don Dexter, Public Works Manager, reported he met with Mr. Ross Power, Artist, and Mr. Marty Zickert, Veterans Council, regarding the Next Generation Veterans monument. He said they will be putting up a sign at the proposed site of the monument to do a little advertising.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

A) Next Meeting Date – September 5, 2018

The next meeting of the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee is scheduled for September 5, 2018.

Mr. Wickstrand asked to be excused from the September meeting.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Today's meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

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