

**SPECIAL CALL VETERANS MEMORIAL ISLAND SANCTUARY  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Thursday, August 16, 2018 – 11:00 a.m.  
City Hall, Council Chambers, Vero Beach, Florida**

**PRESENT:** Chairman, John Matthews, Vice Chairman, Joel Herman, Members; Curtis Paulisin, and Don Wickstrand **Also Present:** Recreation Director, Rob Slezak, Public Works Manager, Don Dexter, Assistant City Attorney, Stefanie Beskovoyne, and Senior Administrative Assistant, Rita Hawkins

**Excused Absences:** Peggy Lyon and Sylvester McIntosh

**Unexcused Absence:** Barbara Fallon

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Matthews called today's meeting to order at 11:00 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) Gold Star Families Monument**

Mr. Tony Young, City Councilmember, thanked the Committee for attending this Special Call meeting. He said when they last talked about the Gold Star Grove this Committee approved the concept of the project. The next step is to discuss the estimated cost and specifics of the project. This meeting was warranted in order have the opportunity to make a recommendation for approval to the City Council. If it is approved then they need time to have the plaques fabricated at the foundry and have them installed for the November 10, 2018 Veterans Day Ceremony. He said he contacted Mr. Monte Falls, Engineering and Public Works Director, and gave him the plaque description. He displayed a 12" x 12" mock up of the plaque to show the size and the wording. He stated that he gave a lot of thought to the location for this monument and unfortunately the location he originally thought of already contains the Heroes All memorial. His recommendation is to place the Gold Star family plaque on the face of the Heroes All pedestal. He thought that location would be appropriate, because it is a predominate location as people enter the cenotaph square. As people read the Heroes All plaque it talks about the cenotaph markers and the Gold Star families plaque addresses the grove of trees that line each side of the cenotaph square. The second part of this project was for the temporary plaques that would be located near each of the trees on a wooden pedestal. As they get weathered they would be removed or replaced with a new plaque honoring another Gold Star family member. The temporary plaques would measure 5" x 7" and the estimated cost would be \$2,200. He said if the first location for the large plaque is not their preference; the other option would be to place it on the opposite side of the cenotaph square on its own pedestal.

Mr. Paulisin asked if the Heroes All plaque is 12" x 12". Mr. Don Dexter, Public Works Manager, replied that if it is not the same size it is very close. Mr. Paulisin recommended that it be proportional to the Heroes All plaque and not larger.

Mr. Young stated that the plaque will read *The grove of trees that flanks the cenotaphs is dedicated to the Gold Star families who have sacrificed loved ones in support of our Country. We are forever thankful.*

Mr. Matthews stated that he certainly likes the idea, because those families have sacrificed more than most of them.

Mr. Paulisin asked if the plaques will be manufactured by the same company that made the cenotaph markers. Mr. Dexter replied yes.

Mr. Young read the names and gave a brief background on each of the eight (8) local individuals that were recommended by the Gold Star family to be considered for the temporary plaques.

Mr. Young said he has spoke with the mother of Edward Reynolds, who graduated from Vero Beach High School. It was not brought to the attention of the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee, because at the time he was not eligible. They have since change the requirement from *died in combat* to *died while defending the United States of America* three (3) years ago. He will be back in touch with the family and the Gold Star families to see if they want to pursue a cenotaph marker for Mr. Reynolds. He reported he has also spoke with the Veterans Council of Indian River County about a possible cenotaph marker for Jonathan Clement, who recently passed while serving.

Mr. Matthews stated that the Gold Star families are local families who lost a loved one while serving, but they did not originate from Vero Beach. He asked Mr. Young who will be covering the \$2,200 cost of the markers.

Mr. Young said he would request that the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee set aside up to \$2,500 for the cost. His belief is that the American Legion Post 39 is supportive of this project. The American Legion wants the opportunity to look at the expenses, but he has not been back in touch with them with the figures. He does not expect that the City will have to pay for this, but he thinks it is appropriate to ask that the money be set aside for any reason that the sponsors do not cover the entire cost. Mr. Matthews said that they will accept donations from those who feel it is a worthwhile cause. He also thinks it is good to have it in place for Veterans Day.

Mr. Young said it would be helpful for the group if the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee would make a motion approving their recommendation. His desire is to incorporate the dedication of the grove with the Centennial celebration.

Mr. Mathew said he personally likes the idea of having the Gold Star plaque placed on the front of the Heroes All pedestal, because it tells the whole story.

Mr. Paulisin asked how will it be installed. Mr. Dexter replied that it will be attached with four (4) mounting screws and epoxy, so it will not come off.

Mr. Matthews asked how many names would be on the temporary markers.

Mr. Young explained that right now there are nine (9) service members that would be recommended by the Gold Star families, but one (1) might be eligible for a cenotaph marker. His recommendation would be to add a paragraph to the City Resolution #2015-23 stating that service members would be recommended for temporary markers by the Gold Star Moms Association, which will be forwarded to the appropriate parties for affirmation and final approval by the City Council.

Mr. Matthews said that the City Resolution states that the person would have had to live in Indian River County when they entered the service and died in service. Mr. Young explained that the fundamental intent of the Island will be to stay in tact, but this will provide an opportunity to approve temporary name plaques by the Gold Star Moms.

Mr. Dexter explained that the temporary name plaques will be mounted to an eight (8) inch square pressure treated post, which has a routed out space to hold the plaque.

Mr. Paulisin asked if the money Mr. Young is asking them to put aside is from the City, or from the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary account. Mr. Young replied that it would be from the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary account.

Mr. Herman asked if anyone knows the balance of the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary account. Mrs. Stefanie Beskovoyne, Assistant City Attorney, reported that there is a little over \$12,000 in the account.

Mr. Matthews said this certainly ties in with the purpose of honoring those who died while serving our Country and the families who have been affected. Mr. Paulisin commented that the Gold Star mothers do so much for the community and are very involved.

Ms. Beskovoyne suggested that their motion recommends to the City Council to expend \$2,200 for the Gold Star families monument.

**Mr. Herman said that he approves that motion as stated by Ms. Beskovoyne. Mr. Wickstrand seconded the motion.**

Mr. Dexter recommended that they ask for just a little more. Mr. Young suggested asking for up to \$2,500 to be on the safe side.

**Mr. Herman modified the motion to ask for approval to expend up to \$2,500 for the Gold Star families monument. The motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Young said the other recommendation he would like to suggest is if they could draft an amendment to the City Resolution that stipulates the procedures for recommendations and approval of the temporary monuments. That draft can be reviewed at the next Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee meeting.

Mr. Matthews asked if they should state the total number of temporary markers that are allowed at each tree. Mr. Young said he thought there would be just one (1) marker at each tree and cycled out if needed.

**Mr. Herman made a motion to recommend that the Gold Star families plaque be place on the front face of the Heroes All pedestal. Mr. Paulisin seconded motion and it passed unanimously.**

Mr. Matthews asked if they can make a motion on the temporary plaques without the Resolution being amended.

Ms. Beskovoyne stated that the Committee gave a clear recommendation on the large Gold Star family grove plaque and clear direction to her on how they would like the Resolution to be revised. She said they can still make the recommendation to the City Council, and they would have final approval.

**Mr. Herman made a motion recommending the approval of the temporary plaques with the future amendment to the City Resolution from the City Attorney's office. Mr. Paulisin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

Mr. Dexter stated that the bronze plates take four (4) to six (6) weeks to make. If they are using aluminum or other metal for the temporary nameplates they will not take as long. Mr. Young replied that he believes the estimate was for all of them to be bronze.

Mr. Dexter asked to clarify that they are requesting one (1) temporary plaque to be placed at each of the 10 Buttonwood Trees. Mr. Matthews stated that as people come forward they could have up to 10 markers, but right now it looks like there will only be eight (8). Mr. Dexter suggested that the Resolution specify that there can be one (1) temporary marker placed at each of the 10 Buttonwood Trees.

Mr. Matthews announced that a memorial service for Barbara Sullivan will take place on Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary tomorrow. It was requested by Sheriff Deryl Loar and it has been approved.

Mr. Young asked for endorsement to fly the POW/MIA flag on September 21, 2018. Mr. Dexter replied that if they are requesting it then they can fly both the smaller half-staff American flag along with the POW/MIA flag.

## **5. ADJOURNMENT**

Today's meeting adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

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