

**VETERANS MEMORIAL ISLAND SANCTUARY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, November 7, 2018 – 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, Peggy Lyon **Also Present:** Recreation Director, Rob Slezak; Public Works Manager, Don Dexter, Assistant City Attorney, Stefanie Beskovoyne, and Senior Administrative Assistant, Rita Hawkins

Excused Absence: Sylvester McIntosh

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) September 5, 2018

Mr. Matthews asked to make a couple of corrections to the September 5th minutes. He said on page three (3) the Next Generation Veterans monument name is "Words from War", not "Word from War". Also on page five (5), the actual date of the POW/MIA day should read the 21st of September and not the 15th.

Mr. Herman made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2018 Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee meeting with the two (2) corrections made. Ms. Fallon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Katherine Garofalo, a Junior from Indian River Charter High School, said that she came to the meeting today because every year each student needs to attend a cultural event, a government meeting, and do 10 volunteer hours in order to graduate. She said she chose this meeting because she is in the choir and they are doing a salute to the Armed Forces this year, so she thought it would be fitting.

Mr. Matthews said the Committee is glad she attended and that they will be talking about topics related to Veterans. He explained that the purpose of the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee is to protect and preserve and to oversee what happens on the Island.

5. NEW BUSINESS

None

6. OLD BUSINESS

A) Recap of POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony – September 21, 2018

Mr. Matthews stated the POW/MIA ceremony took place at Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary on September 21, 2018. He explained that the POW/MIA monument is a regional monument and it was an appropriate ceremony.

B) Recap of Veterans Council Next Generation Veterans Ruck March – September 22, 2018

Mr. Matthews reported that he participated in what was supposed to be a six (6) mile march, but parts of it were a run. It was a motivated crew of young veterans, friends, and families. The march started at Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary proceeded through some beachside neighborhoods, up to Jaycee Park, and then back down to Riverside Park. He said it was raining, but there were still quite a few people who participated. They left their gear near the boat ramps as they entered the Island to hear a few words from the President of the Veterans Council.

Mr. Herman asked how much food did they collect. Mr. Matthews replied that he is not sure on how many pounds of food there was, but it was a truck full. He explained that the participants were each supposed to carry 15 to 30 pounds of food in their rucksack during the march. It was a lot of fun, it brought people together, and it provided some good exercise.

C) Recap of Parkinson Association's Walk to Remember - November 3, 2018

Mr. Matthews stated that part of the Parkinson Association's Walk to Remember took place on the Island, but yesterday he noticed that their event sign was still there. He is not sure if it should stay posted for Veterans Day, or if it should be removed.

Mrs. Lyon reported that she attended the event and it was a wonderful. The main event with the booths and participants was staged in Riverside Park. The walk started in Riverside Park and they went through Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary and ended back in the Park. She explained that the walkers were charged by the event hosts to be reverential on the Island. Once the people reached the Island they were quieter and she could tell they sensed the sacred place that they were walking. It was a good group and she enjoyed the event.

D) Recap of the Veterans Parade – November 3, 2018

Mr. Matthews reported that on November 3, 2018 there was also a Veterans Parade in downtown, which was sponsored by the Cultural Arts community. The parade started at the Community Center and went south down 14th Avenue, turned right on 19th Street, and ended at the Cultural Arts Village area. General Buckingham spoke for several minutes about the history of Vero Beach and being raised here. He was impressed with what this 91-year-old man could remember and that he spoke without any notes.

Mr. Paulisin explained that there was some confusion among some of the participants because the time of the parade was changed from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Mr. Matthews stated that the reason for the change was that the High School band had a conflict with the 10:00 a.m. start time. The parade was part of the City's Centennial Celebration and to bring awareness to the Cultural Arts Village.

E) Update on the Veterans Day Ceremony - November 10, 2018

Mr. Matthews announced that the next big event is the Veterans Day ceremony. Veterans Day is traditionally the eleventh hour, on the eleventh day of the eleventh month. He stated that the cover of the Veterans Day program also mentions the 100th year of World War I (WWI) and it pictures a Poppy flower, which is the flower of WWI. The Veterans Day ceremony will be on Saturday, November 10th

and it starts at 9:00 a.m. They are expecting 1,500 people to attend and they are recommending that people bring a chair, because there is limited seating. They will have all the traditional sites and sound associated with Veterans Day. The Parade Marshall will be Colonel Tony Young and the Master of Ceremonies will be Colonel Sam Kouns. He briefly went over other key people involved in the ceremony. He announced that Sebastian will hold their Veterans Day ceremony on Saturday at Riverview Park at 1:00 p.m. Veterans Day is a celebration of all those who served in the military.

F) Update on the Gold Star Families Monument and Plaques

Mr. Matthews asked if the Gold Star Families plaque has been installed. Mr. Don Dexter, Public Works Manager, reported that the plaque was installed about a week ago and it is mounted on the front face of the existing monument, which is to the left of the cenotaph square. He explained that the City maintenance crew was out doing some work on the Island and a truck put a ding in the plaque. They decided to leave it there for the ceremony and then they will get it repaired or replaced. He said the new Green Buttonwood Trees received some sprucing up with fresh mulch. In the near future the Gold Star family members will be identified and name plaques will be placed at each of those trees.

7. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

Mr. Matthews reported that 140 people attended the Marine Corp Ball, but it is a tribute to all branches of the military. He said a bit of sad news is that the oldest member of the Marine Corp league only has a few months left to live. He said he was also approached by a lady who said her husband has just passed and she asked if they could have a ceremony on the Island for him. He explained to her that it is appropriate to have a ceremony on the Island for a Veteran. She also asked him if they would be allowed to put up a tent and have food on the Island. He advised her to have a meeting place off the Island afterwards, but they could have the ceremony, play taps, present a flag to the family, and ashes can be spread in the water. Ms. Fallon suggested that there is large pavilion in Riverside Park just down from the entrance of the Island that might be appropriate for them to use.

8. MEMBER'S MATTERS

None

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

A) Next Meeting Date – December 5, 2018

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

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

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