VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMISSION (VMC)
MEETING MINUTES
November 14, 2019 5:30 p.m.
Veterans Conference Room-4th Floor
Veterans Memorial Building, 50 2nd Avenue Bridge, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

Commissioners present: Darrell Andersen—Chair
Sherri Schuchmann – Vice Chair
Constance Arens, Kristin Delfs, Mike McElmeel, John Powers

Commissioners absent: Greg DeWolf

Staff Present: Paul Pestel, Facility Director (FD)
Teri Van Dorston, Assistant Director (AD)

Guests: Mike Chismar

The regular meeting of the Veterans Memorial Commission (VMC) was called to order by Chairman Andersen, at 5:30 p.m. Meeting followed the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:
Vice Chair Schuchmann made a motion to approve the minutes of the October meeting; seconded by Commissioner Powers. The motion carried with no objections.

Financials (Budget Report/Bills): Commissioner Arens made a motion to approve; seconded by Commissioner Delfs. The motion carried with no objections.

Presentations:
Stacy Brooks, CEF (Child Evangelism Fellowship)
CEF is a non-profit that bridges the gap between churches and schools providing logistics like insurance, training, etc. CEF partners with local churches to provide curriculum to go into schools to bring the gospel to children through Good News Clubs throughout the school year. Stacy brings numerous statistics and specific examples at local area schools proving improvement in students participating. CEF also runs Five Day Clubs throughout the summer led by teens; improving their leadership skills through training. Ultimately, CEF would like to receive non-profit rates for their upcoming fundraiser; a chili cook off. Fundraiser is scheduled in the coliseum for 03.07.2020. They are expecting 300-350 guests. AD Van Dorston asked if contract had been signed. Chair Anderson offered a 50% discount per VMC policy for 501(c)3 organizations benefitting children.

Cedar Rapids Rollergirls – 2020 license agreement
VMB has been home to the Cedar Rapids Rollergirls for five years receiving reduced rates. They have submitted paperwork for their formal 501(c)3 and are awaiting verification.

CRRG has a strong social medial following and the VMB benefits from their promotion 7,300 Facebook, 900 Instagram and 1,000 Twitter followers. CRRG core values include serving the community and veterans; executed through fundraisers and event participation. Details were provided. Those activities intrinsically serve the VMC.

CRRG outlined a five year plan which included growing their team, promotional ideas and goals. CRRG needs to replace their current floor at a cost of $25,000-30,000. They are pursuing all avenues for increased funding including sponsorships, donations and fundraising. They are asking for a rate reduction to aid this process. Current rental rate is $2,200 per bout which provides 7 days Coliseum
rental and six hours practice time in the Armory. They propose a starting rate of $1,500 per bout for 2020 and raising the per bout amount by $100 each year capping at $2,000 for review in 2025.

Chair Anderson provides confirmation the CRRG falls under Chapter 34 and the VMC guidelines for rentals. Their current rate is well below non-profit rental policies established in 2019. FD Pestel acknowledges CRRG is a good tenant and works with other short term rentals as needed. Chair Anderson indicated an accurate cost study should be completed with CRRG representation. An ad hoc committee may be utilized to further work through the rate discussion with the CRRG to provide an equitable resolution by the end of January, 2020.

Commissioners Delfs, McElmeel and Schuchmann volunteered for the Ad Hoc committee. Chair Andersen recommended allowing the Ad Hoc committee to review the Cedar Rapids Rollergirls price reduction and to make a decision the VMC will uphold. Commissioner Powers made the motion; seconded by Commissioner Arens. The motion carried with no objections.

Facilities Director Report:
FD Pestel will submit the short term rental policy at next meeting. Reports the new program coordinator, will start 11.18.19. Activities this month include:
- LipSync for Learning for the Cedar Rapids School District and two weddings.
- December activities include the Teamsters and Jimmy Hoffa Jr. hosted Presidential Forum December 7th all day. This event will bring national press and require strong security and logistical preparations. It appears at least five presidential candidates will be on site.

Assistant Director Museum Report:
AD Van Dorston asked to table a full report until next month. Highlighted work progression to repair the Grant Wood stained glass “Memorial Window” piece.

Public Comment:
Mike Chismar – Nothing to report.

Commissioner Powers made a motion to cancel the December VMC meeting, Commissioner McElmeel second. The motion carried with no objections.

Chair Andersen calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Powers makes the motion seconded by Commissioner McElmeel. The motion carries unanimously, and the meeting is adjourned at 6:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

by Tish Young, Program Coordinator

[Signatures and dates]