VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMISSION (VMC)
MEETING MINUTES
January 10, 2019 5:30 p.m.
Veterans Conference Room-4th Floor
Veteran's Memorial Building
50 2nd Avenue Bridge
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

Commissioners Present: Kristin Delfs, Chair
Sherri Schuchmann
Darrell Andersen
Constance Arens
John Powers
Greg DeWolf

Commissioners Absent: N/A

Staff Present: Paul Pestel, Facilities Director (FD)
Teri Van Dorston, Assistant Director (AD)
Scott Olson, City Council Liaison

Guests: Mike Chismar
Dean Varner

The regular meeting of the Veterans Memorial Commission was called to order by Commissioner Delfs, Chair, at 5:30 p.m. Commissioner Delfs asked that AD Van Dorston conduct a roll call following the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Financials (Budget report/Bills):
Commissioner Schuchmann made a motion to approve the bills; seconded by Commissioner Andersen. The motion carried with no objections.

Approval of CR Ball Club Inc. Resolution #01-10-19:
Commissioner Delfs opens the floor for a motion to approve resolution #01-10-19 that is the second half of Fiscal Year 2019 invoice of $50,056.50. The resolution can be read in its entirety, which accompanies these minutes in full. Commissioner Delfs makes mention that payments from the Commission budget to the Stadium Capital Reserve Fund will be complete in 2022. Commissioner Powers made a motion to approve the resolution; seconded by Commissioner Schuchmann. The motion carried with no objections.

Facilities Director Report:
• FY2019 Budget outlook and short term projects.

Facility Director Pestel reports that the FY2019 budget cycle looks good, and discretionary spending is about 26% ahead of spending projections; which means if the trend continues the budget will be under projections. Knowing this and looking ahead, FD Pestel would like to move forward with two short-term projects:

First, phasing in adding proper WiFi to parts of the Building, beginning with the following areas: 1) 3rd floor South Tower, 2) Basement facility workshop, 3) Ballroom—AKA 4th floor North Tower, and 4) Restaurant—AKA 3rd floor North Tower. The next phase would be adding WiFi to the Mezzanine level and 4th floor chamber and conference room. As technology has expanded, the goal is to eliminate the use of three hotspots that
minimally work for business needs. At this time, the department will retain one hot spot for facility rentals and Veterans club/organizations.

The second short term project FD Pestel recommends is to purchase the front end unit for an anticipated building automated security system. Commissioner DeWolf inquires where in the building card access would reside. FD Pestel responds that this won’t replace keys but will provide improved controlled access to the building. Essential [employee] points of entry are to be determined, as this is a work in progress. FD Pestel adds: the pathways for the system will follow the structure in place from restoration work done post-Flood 2008.

FD Pestel concludes his report by announcing, that as a department, we’d like to revisit the tradition of presenting commemorative or “thank you” plaques to retired Commissioners. After reading the total archive of past VMC meeting minutes, Pestel found that the VMC used to commemorate commissioners service and we’d like to do that again. He then reviews the examples that will go to the three Commissioners who have retired this past year: Gary Grant, Cindy Guckenberger and (the late) Jerry Ziese’s daughter. All concur this is an excellent way to commemorate the volunteer service that the Commission gives to the City.

Assistant Director Report:

- Museum progress report to include All-Veterans Memorial Park (AVM) policy, discussion followed by Korean War exhibition design presentation.

AD Van Dorston begins by dispersing a two-page handout containing the first two pages of the AVM Policy. She recaps: at the November VMC meeting, it was suggested that an ad-hoc committee be formed both on the VMC and Area Metro Veterans Council (MVC) groups, in an attempt to join together and formulate a policy for the park that everyone agrees upon. After initial discussion with the VMC and MVC, the conclusion was rather to present the policy in pieces to each respective group. In the end, this opportunity should be the most input inclusive.

AD continues: at the recent MVC meeting, positive feedback for this proposed method was received. AD Van Dorston replies at least two years. She continues: two years due to the overall goal that area Veterans who desire to have a voice in this—ideally majority representatives from the Veterans Council and Veterans Memorial Commission that is inclusive of representatives from local Veterans. Commissioner DeWolf inquires who will be compiling and cross checking updates and changes as the groups continue? AD Van Dorston replies she will be that keeper. She continues: the end goal is that the policy acts as a decent yet flexible guide for VMC and MVC and our successors. Commissioner Arens requests that the section up for review is sent to the Commission prior to the next meeting. Commissioner Delfs agrees and requests it be sent with the agenda packets.

The mission statement for the AVM policy is then read, and with minimal discussion acknowledged as presented:

The All-Veterans Memorial Park provides a tranquil outdoor setting for perpetual enjoyment of memorials and monuments dedicated with respect to all Veterans of the United States armed forces in war and peace.

- Approved unanimously by MVC on 1/9/19
- Acknowledged unanimously by VMC on 1/10/19.

The VMC agrees to formally “vote” on the AVM policy once it has been discussed with updates to its entirety. The group also agrees that rather than going slowly by paragraph, that the pace is upped to going section by section. This may help focus the effort for pointed discussion. All agree.

Commissioner Powers brings a comment to the table about recent flurry of emails around a commemorative brass plaque that showed up unannounced on one of the AVM fences. Powers suggests that we contact the
family or group that placed it there. Commissioner Delfs asks AD Van Dorston for comment. Van Dorston updates the group on the Carr mystery plaque: It appears that the “Memorial Salute of Flags” organization may be the ones who placed it there. Van Dorston is in process of trying to connect with someone from that group and will report to the VMC and MVC when answers are available. Powers continues by suggesting when the group or family is reached, that a memorial brick would be most appropriate instead of a singular plaque on a fence. All concur.

AD Van Dorston then turns the conversation to the Korean War exhibition design presentation; to which she presents the nine layers that shall form the gallery. The design and theme overall, speaks to the museum mission and also will center in on the position that the Korean War and Korean Defense Veterans of 1950 and beyond sense they are [or that war in general is] ignored on some levels and therefore strongly resent that they are in the shadow of the greatest generation; the WWII Veterans. Also, for various reasons the Korean War is referred to as “The Forgotten War.” The exhibition shall be designed to recognize the Korean War Veteran and educate the community about the Korean Defense mission. Visitors should come away with a revitalized education and memorable experience of the Eastern Iowans’ contribution to the Korean War/Defense era. AD Van Dorston goes on to explain that FD Pestel has arrived with a marketing and programming budget and explains those initiatives as well.

Discussion follows about the suggested timeframe of the display; initially announced as four years to mirror the Vietnam display. Group suggestion is to keep it to two years, with the potential to extend as necessary.

**Election of officers (Chair & Vice Chair) of the Veterans Memorial Commission for 2019.**
Commission Chair Delfs explains that each year in January the VMC nominates a Chair and Vice Chair to serve a one year term, starting in February. Commissioner Delfs opens the floor for Vice Chair nominations. Delfs nominates Commissioner Schuchmann; who agrees to the position. All in favor, none opposed.

Commissioner Delfs then opens the floor for Chair nominations. Commissioner Arens nominates Commissioner Andersen for Chair; who after a short discussion agrees to the position. All in favor, none opposed.

**Communications from the Metro Veterans Council:**
No communications, other than was shared by AD Van Dorston.

**Public Comment:**
No public comment.

Commissioner Powers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:28 pm.; seconded by Commissioner Andersen. The motion carried with no objections.

Respectfully submitted,

Teri Van Dorston, Assistant Director

CHAIR

VICE CHAIR