The regular meeting of the Veterans Memorial Commission was called to order by Commissioner Guckenberger, Vice Chair, at 5:30 p.m. Commissioner Guckenberger asked that PC Woods conduct a role call following the Pledge of Allegiance. All welcomed Commissioner DeWolf to his first VMC meeting. It was also shared that Commissioner Jerry Ziese resigned today from the VMC. Mayor Hart will appoint a Veteran from applications his office has received to fill Mr. Ziese’s remaining term.

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

Financials:
Commissioner Powers made a motion to approve the bills; seconded by Commissioner Arens. The motion carried with no objections.

Approval of CR Ball Club Inc. Resolution #07-12-18:
Commissioner Guckenberger opens the floor for a motion to approve the resolution #07-12-18 for approval of the first half of Fiscal Year 2019 invoice of $50,056.50. The resolution can be read in its entirety, which accompanies these minutes in full. Mr. Olson asks Doug Nelson, CEO of the Cedar Rapids Kernels, if there are specific plans for the money received this year or if it would be placed with their general funds.

Mr. Nelson explains that these funds benefit ongoing maintenance at the Veterans Memorial Stadium. The money received from the VMC is approximately a third of the expenditures at an estimated cost of $350,000 for this year’s ongoing maintenance. In the Fall of 2018, two projects will begin from the contribution of the VMC. First, a ledge around the third floor of the ballpark will be repaired due to a leak. The second project is the wood decks located in the left field’s pavilion, built at the same time of the VMS in 2002. The Kernels original masterplan was to replace it in 2015, though their maintenance
staff were able to make repairs and salvage three additional years of use. Mr. Nelson is working with the appropriate City of Cedar Rapids contacts for the bidding process. They are hoping to use composite material for the next deck. There has been considerable erosion in that area, and they will address the issue during the renovation. The deck is still safe to use until its replacement. The Kernels are working to build their budget up for future projects that will include sod replacement on the field, lighting updates, as well as the video board.

Mr. Nelson shares his appreciation from Fox Sports News who televise the Minnesota Twins, as they have been doing live cut-ins to the Kernels games during the last two home-stands. They were complimentary of the Cedar Rapids community and the Veterans Memorial Stadium, encouraging Twins fans to visit.

Another project Mr. Nelson shares, that utilizes other funding from the Kernels, is repairing the parking lot of the VMS. As frequent use and foot traffic through the years occurred, the chip sealing process that was completed a few years ago, has begun to receive complaints from fans. The City of Cedar Rapids will work with the Kernels to seal the parking lot in sections this fall, with the goal to be complete by the Division 3 World Series in June of 2019.

Commissioner Powers inquiries about the progress of the ADA updates to the VMS; Mr. Nelson updates all that it is ongoing but close to being resolved. Commissioner Arens asks if there would be another ADA survey following the completion. Mr. Nelson confirms there would be, with the City of Cedar Rapids leading the process, as they will hire an independent auditor to approve completed ADA updates.

Commissioner Powers made a motion to approve the resolution #07-12-18; seconded by Commissioner Arens. The motion carried with no objections. Mr. Nelson leaves the meeting at this time as the Kernels are playing this evening.

**Facilities Director Report:**
FD Pestel is already in the process of CIP planning of future projects within the VMB. After meeting with the VMC’s Finance Department contacts today, he shares that the current CIP fund is approximately just short of $900,000.00. Those funds will be slated for work on building code issues and ADA compliance first in the VMB.

Plans that are in progress, including the seventh floor sprinkler addition, is scheduled to begin on July 23 and should be completed by the end of the week. That will bring the seventh floor to building code in regards to life safety. The planning process is beginning on the third and sixth floors, with ADA restroom planning for the sixth and seventh floors. As the VMC has already approved to enter into an agreement with Solum Lang Architect, Brad Lang, that step will begin soon. Bathroom surveys will be completed for floors 2, 5, 6, and 7.

Sixth floor will be gutted and prepped for possible future tenancy as well as addressing any ADA compliance issues. Currently, the mentioned projects are estimated to total $700,000.00 in cost. Scott Olson comments that when working in historic buildings, not every floor will require to be brought to full building code. That as long as there is access to two restrooms for anyone in the VMB, it would not be required to have every floor equipped with two restrooms. FD Pestel agrees and adds that by working with Mr. Lang we will be able to be driven and follow building code in some; yet other projects driven by ADA compliance. The bathroom studies will assist in that programming process, as the number of occupants allowed per floor will help guide final decisions. The programming itself should take approximately a month to complete once it begins. After that, the design, develop and contract documents will follow with work more than likely to begin approximately in December. The benefit to working with Mr. Lang is the expertise and historical knowledge in general, along with past design work within the VMB itself.
The City of Cedar Rapids, as well as the architects at Ament Design will lead the upcoming ADA compliance work. They will work with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), to get many items off the ADA non-compliant list. SHPO will be an ally during the process. The project will be going out to bid in about a month. The funding for the ADA compliance work will be covered under the bonds the City of Cedar Rapids has secured, not the VMC CIP fund. While the VMC will be able to review the project, we will not head the ADA work.

Commissioner Powers shares that the 2nd avenue entrance has a spot on the stairs that needs repaired in the concrete. FD Pestel will make it a point to address it.

Mr. Olson inquires if the FY20 budget planning is in starting, which FD Pestel confirmed that it is beginning, with the budget due in September. He also has as a meeting scheduled with the City of Cedar Rapids Finance Director, Casey Drew. The main discussion of the meeting will be the deficit of reserve funds the City of Cedar Rapids believes to be owed from the VMC.

Museum Report:
AD Van Dorston has no new updates at this time to share.

Linn County Freedom Rock:
AD Van Dorston leads those present through a PowerPoint slideshow she has prepared, and is attached to these minutes in full. Her goals in sharing the slideshow:
   a. To share more details related to what an installation of the Linn County Freedom Rock would look like to the VMC.
   b. Force a discussion and decision on the location of the Linn County Freedom Rock, should the AVM Park be its location.

Following the slideshow presentation, a discussion began. When asked what would be the proposed site at the AVM Park, AD Van Dorston suggests the area known as the original AVM Park, south of the VMS Stadium. Commissioner Powers voices his concern that it not be near the new AVM Park location, as the space is already filling quickly with the memorial bricks. Commissioner Guckenberger asks AD Van Dorston for her professional opinion on the Linn County Freedom Rock at the AVM Park. When taking all of the facts into consideration, AD Van Dorston respectfully believes, it should not be located at the park. Her main concerns are the current budget needs to future upkeep costs, final image control, and the benefit of tourism to a smaller community.

Commissioner Guckenberger asks for a straw poll with each Commissioners thoughts of the Linn County Freedom Rock being placed at the AVM Park or if they have another location in mind. Commissioner Schuchmann is for the Freedom Rock in Linn County, though she is not sure which community would be best. AD Van Dorston agrees that with many rich communities to select from, and the history of Veteran connections, it would be difficult to select a town. Mr. James and Mr. Mikelson share that other Linn County communities have shown interest as well. Commissioner Arens agrees that it would not be best located at the AVM Park and would be concerned it would take away from the beautiful existing monuments in place. She suggests a small town to benefit from its tourism. Commissioner Powers says without the financial support system and the current crowding of the AVM Park, it be best to place the Linn County Freedom Rock in another location, possibly the Linn County Fairgrounds even. Commissioner Guckenberger agrees with all the comments made from the fellow Commissioners.

Commissioner DeWolf asks what criteria or evaluation may be put in place for the location of the Freedom Rock. AD Van Dorston explains that it would fall on the Linn County Freedom Rock Foundation to spearhead the planning as she understands. Mr. Mikelson answers that should the VMC decide against
the AVM location, Cedar Rapids would be taken out as an option for the Freedom Rock and nothing would to be brought back to the VMC nor the Metro Veterans Council for any approval. He and Mr. James would take the plan back to the Linn County Veterans Commission.

Mr. Olson agrees with the Commissioners that the AVM Park would not be the best location due to the area being more susceptible to vandalism. However, he would hope that the VMC would still show some support in the financial process for the Linn County Freedom Rock Foundation. He believes that it is a win for the Linn County in the end, regardless of the location. AD Van Dorston wraps up the discussion that the VMC has expressed the decision to pass on placing the Linn County Freedom Rock within the AVM Park. However, she would enjoy sharing the history as well as to contribute in the project as the Foundation may see fit which Mr. Mikelson, and Mr. James welcome her to do so.

**Communications from the Metro Veterans Council:**

Commissioner Powers did not attend the previous night’s meeting of the MVC. He has been in communication with the MVC Secretary, Cheryl King. He shares with all those present that he and Vice President Howard Purdy are resigning from the MVC due to medical reasons. He then requests to resign from the VMC, as he will no longer be the President of the MVC. He was not updated by Ms. King on the report of the meeting, but does suggests that if anyone have nominations for the Veteran of the Year, they reach out to Ms. King.

PC Woods then clarifies if Commissioner Powers is resigning from both the MVC and the VMC at which a comment is interjected by Mr. Olson that it is not a requirement that he be the President of the MVC to continue his term on the VMC. Commissioner Powers will continue to fulfil his term until 2020 and will update with MVC communications as he receives them moving forward.

**Public Comment:**

Commissioner DeWolf introduces himself to those present; recently retired as a USAF Colonel of 24 years with the Medical Service Core. He and his family recently returned to Cedar Rapids, where he and his wife were raised, 2 years ago from Texas. He has three children and currently works at Mercy Hospital. He looked in becoming involved in his community and found the VMC.

Mike Chismar comments that the VFW sponsors the American Legion Baseball league with eight teams in Cedar Rapids. Cedar Rapids will host their state championship in July at the Jefferson High School baseball fields with free popcorn and water for Veterans. He also thanks the Kernels and the VMC in sponsoring the Military Night at the VMS.

Commissioner Powers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:26 p.m.; seconded by Commissioner DeWolf. The motion carried with no objections.

Respectfully submitted,

Nikke Woods, Program Coordinator

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CHAIR__________________________________________ Date

VICE CHAIR__________________________________________ Date