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 PC Woods conduct a role call following the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

Facilities Director Report:
The fiscal year 2020 budget is nearing completion being due to the City of Cedar Rapids Finance Department by October 20, 2018. With assistance from Ronda Jones, the VMC’s Budget Analyst, it should be complete by October 12, 2018. During research phase, an inactive small account under the VMC was found from 2002. The account was initiated and used during the All-Veterans Memorial Park (AVM) relocation and has a balance of approximately $4,000.00. The funds are still accessible but the funds are required to be spent on the AVM Park. Mr. Olson asks if the funds can also be used for improvements at the AVM Park, which FD Pestel answers that would qualify as well. After speaking with the Metro Veterans Council last night, informal preliminary discussions are just beginning to look at options for long term planning of monuments, bricks, and landscaping at the AVM Park.

Commissioner Arens asked if the lighting is sufficient at the AVM Park, AD Van Dorston believes it to be insufficient. FD Pestel will be meeting with a representative from Hall & Hall architects, the designers of the AVM Park from 2002.
ADA plans are very close to completion FD Pestel continues and he awaits the final plans to approve prior to the bidding process. FD Pestel also shares of his progress of preparing bylaws for the VMC to include a separate policy manual.

The most recent flood projections this week began near 20’ with Mondays forecast of 19.7’ to crest on October 14. The projections have decreased significantly through the week with it currently sitting at 14.4’. Unfortunately, with the possible threat, this weekend’s wedding rental chose to relocate to another venue. As the current crest is projected, the flood door will not be closing this time. With the recent back-to-back flooding threats, it has created an opportunity to start planning with the VMC staff for future flood threats at well, which will be based off 2’ increments. A flood projected at 16-18’ has shown no need for preventative measures by VMC staff, though the flood door will still close at 16’. At 20’ (or more) projections, VMC staff will begin different stages of preventive planning, including emptying the underground storage area and locking the basement flood door.

Commissioner Delfs asks FD Pestel about the funding of the ADA work covers the proposed bathroom and elevator lobby work. It is further clarified that if work is ADA required, city bonds through City Services would fund it. The upcoming proposed work would bring each space within the VMB to ADA code. By working with the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office, or SHIPO, on variances due to the VMB’s historic nature, it has shown to be quite beneficial.

Assistant Director Report:
AD Van Dorston begins her report on the AVM Park. While there has never been a policy in place for AVM Park, the last few years one has been in development aided by various current and former Commissioners input. The AD would like to complete the policy soon and requests a VMC ad hoc committee to help finalize it. Commissioner DeWolf inquires the reasoning to now putting a policy in place. The AD clarifies that it will help guide the partnership with the Metro Veterans Council on the AVM, while providing a path to sustain current and future monuments, create a jurisdiction, and to make the brick program clear.

Donations are winding down for the year, with the ledger showing 29 donors encompassing over 700 artifacts brought in; ranging from photos to books, Veterans archive material and other categories. The AD is working on the next planned Korean War exhibit, attending the Korean War Veterans Associations quarterly meeting this Saturday, October 13. She is looking forward to meeting for their input for the exhibit and knowledge. The VMC Intern’s last day is scheduled for October 26, 2018. We will seek a new Intern during next Spring Semester.

Commissioner Arens inquires where donated items are stored for the exhibits, which it is shared in the old legion room, with climate control and with proper storage units made for museum collections.

Communications from the Metro Veterans Council:
Commissioner Powers speaks on behalf of the MVC and shares as mentioned, the MVC Veterans Day program is having the final details all set for the program. There will not be any school involvement this year. The topic of the Linn County Freedom Rock (LCFR) was brought up again at the MVC meeting. Commissioner Powers believes those who were questioning the LCFR location now understand and accept its chosen location. Another concern is the discussion of possibly moving the bricks at the AVM Park. He was asked to be clear with the MVC that all discussions about the AVM Park are just in the preliminary discussion phase and the MVC will be asked to join when appropriate.

Public Comment:
Mr. Chismar shares of how successful the American Legion sponsored state baseball championships were. Next year, the American Legion will be celebrating their 100-year anniversary that again will be held at the Jefferson High School baseball fields. Mr. Chismar also shares that the Disabled Veterans of America national tee tournament held in September was also a success. Mr. Olson shares that the City of Cedar
Rapids is cranking up flood protection plans and encourages FD Pestel to participate in those discussions if possible.

Commissioner Powers brings a request from MVC’s President, Bob Feiereisen, in regards to a request that the VMB allow and house a JR shooting range. After a brief history of the request is shared with newer Commissioners, Commission Chair Delfs provides the same answer that had been provided in the past and voted on by the VMC. The VMB will not house any shooting range. Per Commissioner Delfs, the AD will supply an official letter to be sent to Mr. Feiereisen which will ensure he is aware of the past vote and current standing from the VMC on his requested topic.

Commissioners Arens and Schuchmann will be at Ushers Ferry on October 21, 2018 from 1-4:00 pm, supporting the VMC during the annual Ushers Scary Ferry event. Information on local venues that offer free meals for Veterans on Veterans Day will be emailed to all and updated as others share any promotions. A reminder that former Commissioner Jerry Zieses’ memorial services are on October 20, 2018. The VMC office will send a reminder of details to those who may be able to attend.

Commissioner Arens 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

CHAIR

Date

VICE CHAIR

Date