



VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK FOUNDATION OF PENSACOLA, INC.  
Board of Directors Meeting, December 13, 2016  
MINUTES

**Board Members Present**

David Glassman, Michael Swinehart, Peter McKanna, Butch Hansen, Paul Brown, Lisa Rawson, Peter Frano, and Jim Murphy.

**Board Members Absent**

Paul Entrekin, Roberto Rivera, Jack Brown (Immediate Past President), Joe Glover, Jim Durr, Bill Weeks (City Representative) and Ed Holt (Legal Advisor).

**Guest(s) Present**

Warren Palmer, Volunteer Coordinator; SgtMaj (Retired) Ralph Hyatt; Robert Hall; LCDR (Retired) Robert Donofrio; Bill Cody; Norm Lafontaine; and Dick Lacour.

(Motions and actions taken are listed in red)

**Call to Order and Welcome:** President Hansen called the meeting to order at 3:30 and asked those present for a moment of silence for those we honor at the Park, their families, and especially for U.S. Army SFC Allen E. Brown, SGT John W. Perry, and PFC Tyler R. Lubbelt, 1<sup>st</sup> Special Troops Battalion, Killed in Action in Bagram, Afghanistan. The Pledge of Allegiance followed the moment of silence.

President Hansen noted that Ruth Spooner, an Air Force Veteran and potential board member, had planned to attend today's meeting. Steve Streck, a local businessman, was also planning to attend to discuss some of his plans/vision for the Park area. Neither were able to attend.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the November 29, 2016 board meeting were presented for approval. **Motion by Michael Swinehart to approve minutes as presented. Second by Lisa Rawson. Motion carried.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Paul Brown reported a bank balance of approximately \$38,369.90. Year-to-date donations totaled \$36,125.18 and in-kind donations totaled \$2,268.66. Total expenses to date were \$73,543.94.

President Hansen added that the balances did not include the \$5,000.00 grant, earmarked for the Vietnam Memorial Wall repairs and/or expansion, received today from the Bear Family Foundation. This led to a discussion regarding names to be added to the Memorial. Paul Brown and his colleague, Coast Guard Veteran Cindy Hinch, researched differences between our Vietnam Memorial and the one in Washington, DC. Several names appear to be missing but many were duplicate entries or misspellings in the database. Ultimately, 40 names need to be added to our Memorial. **Lisa Rawson made a motion move forward with the engraving of the additional names with the Bear Family Foundation grant funds. The motion failed for lack of a second** after a Pete McKanna pointed out the engraving cost was unknown but he would have a bid later this week. He also indicated we should move forward quickly because the engraving requires cool, dry weather and the sooner we are added to the engraver's scheduling, the better. **Motion by Paul Brown to use the Bear Family Foundation funds for the engraving if the bid is \$5,000.00 or less. Second by Michael Swinehart. Motion carried.**

**President's Report:** President Hansen reported on the following:

- The Board has one open seat. No applicants were present at the meeting and no action was taken.
- Two additional grant application previously submitted have not yet been announced.
- The deadline for the Gulf Power grant is Thursday, 15 December. The grant application requires a specific project. President Hansen will use the Global War on Terror memorial for this application. Pet McKanna added that he is updating the list of proposed projects and will provide it to Board members.
- President Hansen met with Marine Corps Gold Star wife Ashley Lukasiewicz whose husband, Capt Dusty Lukasiewicz, was killed in Nepal while performing earthquake recovery operations. Mrs. Lukasiewicz would like to see her husband and/or his operation memorialized on the Marine Aviation Memorial Tower with a plaque or in some other appropriate manner. Several possibilities were discussed but decision was reached.



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- There is potential for an occasional scheduling conflict for the Whibbs Conference Room. Some future Foundation meetings will be held elsewhere in City Hall, if necessary.

Committee Reports

City: No report/not present.

Technology: David Glassman

- Updated members on the master planning and potential for the Cohen Center involvement. Presented sketches from the group in Dallas regarding the potential future look of the Memorial Park and surrounding areas.
- Discussed the potential of expanding the Marine Aviation Memorial Tower to provide room for recent and aviation losses.
- Introduced the following visitors who have volunteers to participate as a sub-committee for Park expansion planning and coordination:
  - LCDR (Retired) Robert Donofrio, a local Mental Health Nurse Practitioner who discussed issues related to Veterans access to mental health;
  - Bill Cody, a Marine Corps Veteran and DigiPro employee;
  - Norm Lafontaine; a Marine Corps Veteran and marketing and advertising professional; and,
  - Dick Lacour, an experience developer.
- Discussed the potential for a partnership with Visit Pensacola if/when the Park is expanded. President Hansen will be meeting with Visit Pensacola next week.

Maintenance and Planning: Peter McKanna

- The surge protector project has been delayed.
- He will provide an update on all proposed projects at the next meeting.

Other Business:

- President Hansen asked about online donations and sending letters to donors. He was recently asked about end-of-year donation letters by a regular donor. Treasurer Paul brown has not done so in the past. David Glassman indicated the information does reside on the back-end of the website and can be provided but is not required since the confirmation email of each individual donation serves as a receipt for tax purposes.
- Lisa Rawson was contacted by Hobbs Middle School in Milton regarding an art project for special needs students and the potential to display their Veterans Day art at the Park with recognition from the Foundation. President Hansen indicated he has medallions available and would support the addition of this event.
- The raffle for the World War II blanket was doncuted. Warren Palmer was the winner and donated the blanket back to the Foundation to be raffled again in the future.

**Adjournment:**

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:07P.M. The next meeting is January 10 at 3:30P.M.

Submitted by:

James M. Murphy