



VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK FOUNDATION OF PENSACOLA, INC.

Board of Directors Meeting, July 12, 2016

Pensacola City Hall

MINUTES

Board Members Present

John B. Clark, David Glassman, Peter McKanna, Michael Swinehart, Roberto Rivera, Lisa Rawson, Peter Frano, Ed Holt (Legal Advisor) Jack Brown (Immediate Past President).

Board Members Absent

Butch Hansen, Joe Glover, Paul Brown, Paul Entrekin and Bill Weeks (City Representative).

Guest(s) Present

Warren Palmer, Volunteer Coordinator
Members of the Vietnam Vets and Legacy Vets Motorcycle Club
Mike Cotton, Mike Cotton Productions

(Motions and actions taken are listed in red)

Call to Order and Welcome: In the absence of President Butch Hansen who was attending an Escambia County budget hearing, the meeting was called to order at 9:00 by board Vice President Michael Swinehart who led those present in a moment of silence for those we honor at the Park and their families followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Visitor Acknowledgement and Presentations: Vice President Swinehart welcomed visitors and introduced Kevin Freeland with the Vietnam Vets Motorcycle Club. Mr. Freeland presented Vice President Swinehart with a \$1000 donation for the Park. Mr. Swinehart expressed appreciation on behalf of the board.

Mr. Freeland explained a new initiative their group is undertaken in response to the high number of vet suicides. It is called "Operation Zero." The purpose is to call awareness to the problem/issue and reduce the number of suicides to zero. Their slogan is "never quit on life."

In response to a question from David Glassman about membership in the group; Mr. Freeland explained the motorcycle vets group is one club with two groups—those who served in Vietnam and others who came after that period. David Glassman also explained how important the organization which he works with, AHERO, has been in helping vets and preventing suicides.

Vice President Swinehart introduced promoter, Mike Cotton, who provided the board with an overview of some of the productions that he and Dave Barnes have produced. One of local interest is "FLORA-BAMA 50 YEARS." There will be a viewing of the documentary on July 25 at the Flora-Bama and he wanted to offer Veterans Memorial Park the opportunity to have a display that would promote the Park and we would have an opportunity to sell some of our merchandise and share in the gate proceeds.

Vice President Swinehart read a card from Wendi Ochs, the widow of John Ochs, thanking the board for the commemorative flag and photograph presented to her on Memorial Day in memory of John.



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Minutes: The minutes of the June 28, 2016 board meeting were presented for approval.

Motion by John Clark to approve minutes as presented. Second by Peter McKanna. Motion Carried.

President's Report provided by Vice President Swinehart:

- Board member Joe Glover has indicated he may return to active status on the board in August. He had been placed on leave of absence status by the board.
- No security update to report.

There was discussion regarding Veterans' Day planning and events. President Hansen has spoken with Marvin Merillat, County Veterans' Services Officer, who proposed having a student art contest at the Park. Lisa Rawson agreed to follow up and be the point person on the project. Ed Holt noted that education and further outreach is important so that younger people know and understand what the Park represents. After much discussion, David Glassman suggested that Lisa Rawson reduce her ideas/proposals to writing so that a decision could be made.

There was discussion regarding committees, ad-hoc committees and other meetings vis a vis the Sunshine Law. Ed Holt offered to do some training on the law in that there are several new members who have come on board since the last training.

Committee Reports

City: No report

Events: No report

Maintenance and Planning: Peter McKanna

- According to Verdin Corporation there are some \$6,000 in repairs needed for the Marine Memorial Bell Tower involving light fixtures. There is excessive corrosion and it is proposed to replace the light fixtures with LED lighting which should solve the problem. According to a verbal commitment from Lt. Colonel William Rasgorshek, his group would pay for the repairs. We do not have a formal commitment.
- We still have an opportunity to sell plaques that would replace the old light fixtures in front of the Wall South. Members had previously been provided an overview and example of the plaques. Peter McKanna will re-send information.
- The board will have to be responsible for the repair of the Wall light fixture as the manufacturer will no longer complete warranty work on the fixtures.

Business from the Floor:

- David met with Visit Pensacola and Military Reunion Connection that puts on seminars for reunion coordinators and provides them location packets. They came to Pensacola because this is a good location for reunions. They are putting together a May seminar of military reunion coordinators; with the vision of the VMP website being the military reunion resource.



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This is an ongoing process and not a lot of money involved but lends itself to an impact on the community and the Park.

- David Glassman met with Vital Signs and they will do a new digital work-up for the board to review and approve. Sign will be on Park property along Bayfront Parkway to be visible to traffic. However, Warren Palmer noted that there is some damage to the walkways and the current concrete sign area and chips on the walkway; most likely caused by skateboarders.

Roberto Rivera said that the Holiday Inn and Suburban Inn on Barrancas want to be involved in providing assistance to reunions and would be willing to provide special rates. They apparently have meeting space also. He will bring the board detailed information.

Some discussion regarding Lisa Rawson's idea on having an essay contest for Veterans' Day on the "Oath of Service." **Motion by Lisa Rawson to approve the topic for the essay contest. Second by Peter Frano. Motion Carried.**

Adjournment:

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:30. Next meeting is July 26, 2016 at 9:00AM.

Submitted by:

John B. Clark

Minutes approved at the regular meeting of the VMP board of directors on August 9, 2016