



VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK FOUNDATION OF PENSACOLA, INC.

Board of Directors Meeting, June 14, 2016

Pensacola City Hall

MINUTES

Board Members Present

Butch Hansen, John B. Clark, David Glassman, Peter McKanna, Paul Entrekina, Michael Swinehart, Roberto Rivera, Lisa Rawson, Peter Frano and Bill Weeks (City Representative).

Board Members Absent

Joe Glover, Paul Brown, Jack Brown (Immediate Past President) and Ed Holt (Legal Advisor).

Guest(s) Present

Warren Palmer, Volunteer Coordinator
Grayson Berry, DigiPro
BG Roger Rowe
Charlie Switzer
Colonel Dave Barraclough: Gulf Coast Veterans in Need
Capt. Tony McFarlane: Gulf Coast Veterans in Need
Amelia Asmar

(Motions and actions taken are listed in red)

Call to Order and Welcome: The meeting was called to order at 9:00 by Board President Butch Hansen who led those present in a moment of silence for those we honor at the Park and their families.

Visitor Acknowledgement and Presentations: President Hansen welcomed visitors. First order of business was to present a framed picture of the Wall South to BG Roger Rowe and Charlie Switzer in recognition and thanks for their years of service on the board of directors and their service to the Park.

Amelia Asmar was introduced to speak about some proposed changes in the Veterans Administration. The proposed changes would allow Advanced Practice Nurses (ARNP) to “permit full practice authority of all VA advance practice registered nurses when they are acting within the scope of their VA employment.” The Florida Medical Association is opposed to these changes because they do not see this in the best interest of patient care and they are encouraging people to express their opposition. This proposed rule change can be found in the Federal Register and anyone can go to that website and state their opinion on the rule.

President Hansen introduced Col. Barraclough with Gulf Coast Veterans in Need (GCVN). This organization helps veterans in need with such things as housing and care not covered by other programs. They also provide the plaques and other special recognition for those killed in action. The group may be disbanding in the future and there was some discussion about turning over any available cash assets to the Park to be used for recognition of service members who are KIA. Board members commented as follows:

- David Glassman: it is necessary to be sure that the mission of the Park is in synch with the charter of the GCVN group.
- Roberto Rivera: perhaps the Marine Corps League would be more in line with the mission of the GCVN and asked if they had discussed this with the League.



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Question as to whether or not the Marine Corps League group helped others beyond Marines. David Glassman stated that they now have a fund called the Veterans in Distress Fund to do just that.

Both representatives said they would discuss this further with their group before a final decision is made.

President Hansen introduced guest Sgt. Major Hyatt who held everyone captive as he related an overview of his history of military service.

President Hansen gave a special recognition and thanks to Warren Palmer for all his work on Park events throughout the year.

Minutes: The minutes of the May 24, 2016 board meeting were presented for approval.

Motion by Michael Swinehart to approve minutes as presented. Second by Lisa Rawson. Motion Carried.

Treasurer Report:

- *In the absence of the Treasurer, a detailed financial report is attached to these minutes.*
- Board members were reminded to provide Paul Brown with a record of any personal expenditures made on behalf of the Park so they can be recorded as in-kind contribution. The same goes for volunteer hours spent of Park or board activities.

President's Report:

- Some of the Jill Hubbs documentary, "They Were Our Fathers," about those who lost fathers during the Vietnam War, was filmed at the Park.
- Meeting with the Mayor: discussed the Global War on Terror (GWOT) Memorial and secured the approval of the Mayor. Also discussed the overgrown condition of the Admiral Mason Park retention pond.
- Nothing to report on security.
- Grant applications: no word on either the county or city application.
- Current IMPACT 100 grant is being wrapped up. Noted that we were far ahead of many other applicants.
- Candlelight vigil in memory of Blue Angel went well, despite some minor mix-ups in coordination with Park and city staff.

There followed some general discussion about possibly coordinating/combining future Memorial Day events with NAS and using the Park as a venue; especially in light of increased base security which makes it difficult for civilians to access the base. David Glassman noted that such events at the Park are "soft targets" for someone intent on harming citizens. Possibly should consider some options for large Park events. *No firm decision was made on this issue.*

- Hawkshaw meeting and proposals: latest meeting did not consider any VMP ideas and/or concerns about property development.



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Committee Reports:

City: Bill Weeks

Nothing new to report, beyond the meetings on Hawkshaw property.

Events:

General discussion of Memorial Dave event. Everyone was in agreement that the essay contest went well and drew more people to the Park. Lisa Rawson was tasked with developing a plan for an essay contest at this year's Veterans Day event. It was also suggested that the table requesting donations should be more strategically located.

Maintenance and Planning: Peter McKanna

- It was noted that some lights on the Wall South were not working for the Blue Angel Memorial. However, replacements have arrived and will be installed. The light manufacturer reported that they will no longer continue to repair/replace the lights, as the problem is not the lights but the connectors.
- Reported that Smith Electric plans to approach the manufacturer for reimbursement of some of their costs. Smith Electric has done considerably pro-bono work for the Park. It was suggested that they submit an invoice—even though they are not charging a fee—so they can get credit for their pro-bono work.

GWOT Memorial: there was considerable discussion on this project. President Hansen had developed a preliminary cost estimate for the project which he distributed to members.

Report is attached to minutes.

There was general consensus that this should not be a direct project of the Park, but rather we would try to find a sponsor/group willing to take on the effort. We should not be in the business of raising funds for the Memorial. Our fundraising efforts should be for our routine operating expenses. It was also agreed not to submit an IMPACT 100 grant for the GWOT memorial as this would imply it was a direct project of the Park.

Technology: David Glassman said he continues to work with Visit Pensacola and Pensacola Beach Trolley so that VMP website can become the clearing house for military reunions in our area. He introduced Grayson Berry:

- Provided an overview of the social media results; he noted the large increase in “likes” which is a positive result.
- Noted a spike in people going to the site around Memorial Day, which would be expected.
- Efforts to increase “stories” for the blog series; including military retirees/reunions coming to town.
- Meeting with Visit Pensacola to get some cross promotion for the Park.
- Has some ideas for increasing interest in GWOT Memorial funding and will discuss later.

Adjournment:

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Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:50. Next meeting is June 28, 2016 at 9:00AM.

Submitted by:
John B. Clark

Minutes were approved by the VMP Board of Directors during their meeting on June 28, 2016