



VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK FOUNDATION OF PENSACOLA, INC.
Board of Directors Meeting, October 11, 2016
MINUTES

Board Members Present

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

Board Members Absent

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

Guest(s) Present

Warren Palmer, Volunteer Coordinator
Sgt. Major Hyatt

(Motions and actions taken are listed in red)

Call to Order and Welcome: President Hansen called the meeting to order at 9:00 by the flagpole at the Veterans Memorial Park and led those present in a moment of silence for those we honor at the Park and their families followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. He reported the Jack Brown was in Tallahassee today for an illness in his family. Because of that, he was unsure if he would be available on Veterans Day. As a result, our guest speaker, Colonel Clay Stackhouse will be the Grand Marshall for the Parade. President Hansen asked everyone to keep Jack Brown and his family in their prayers.

The purpose of convening the meeting at the Park was to review and discuss the possibility of removing the hedges around the Wall South. This had been recommended as an option by the visiting landscape architect as a way of “opening up” the Park and making it more visible from the highway when driving into Pensacola. Members walked around the Wall area, including the top of the Wall, to gather some idea of what removing the hedges would look like. According to Peter McKanna the top of the Wall could be covered with greenery, or even grass—not shrubs—which should discourage people from walking on top of the Wall. One area of concern involved people walking to the edge of the Wall and falling off. Ways to prevent that were discussed; such as roping off area around the top of the Wall.

There was also discussion about moving the helicopter as well as cutting down the shrubs around the base which holds it in place. Following discussion and tour, the meeting reconvened at approximately 10:00 in City Hall.

Minutes: The minutes of the September 20, 2016 board meeting were presented for approval. **Motion by David Glassman to approve minutes as presented. Second by Lisa Rawson. Motion Carried.**

Treasurers Report: Paul Brown reported that year to date donations, including in-kind, total \$26,612.29. Year to date expenses total \$62,819.77 for a YTD loss of \$36,207.48. We currently have a bank balance of \$37,317.00. Financial reports attached to minutes.

President’s Report: President Hansen reported on the following:

- Was on WCOA radio this AM with Jim Sanborn to discuss fundraising and upcoming Veterans Day celebration. He was asked to be on again before the Veterans Day event.
- WCOA will also have events at the Hawkshaw property before and after the Veterans Day ceremony.
- He has purchased a tent with the Park logo for displays and events. Should have the display near the Park entrance this Veterans Day for selling shirts, hats, etc.



VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK FOUNDATION OF PENSACOLA, INC.
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MINUTES

Warren Palmer had brought in a throw designed with WWII displays that he was donating so we could sell raffle tickets to raise funds. Roberto Rivera and Warren will coordinate the raffle and sell at such venues as auto show on the 22nd, HAU series, etc. Tickets will be sold through December 7.

There was some general discussion about fundraising. Michael Swinehart reminded everyone to send him any names of potential donors. This does not mean you would personally have to approach the prospective donor personally.

President Hansen has submitted grant request to Chadbourne Foundation and had a good conversation with that group about the request. He has also submitted a more formal application request to the Bear Family Foundation.

Paul Brown reminded everyone that we do not track in-kind for board members' volunteer hours; however, if a board member purchases or pays for an item for the Park, they should provide him with a receipt and we can use/track that in-kind expense. However, he must have a receipt.

President Hansen noted the board vacancies and reported that board member John Clark will be resigning effective December 1. There was some discussion about potential board members. One such suggestion was Kevin Lacz who was a decorated member of Team Seal Three. He is also one of the authors of the book, "The Last Punisher."

There was some discussion about whether or not we should maintain the current time and day for the board meetings; would this be a detriment to working members? Would a more convenient time be at the end of the day? Should be noted that we could only meet at City Hall until 5:30. While we could meet at other locations, there must be the ability to record the meetings. Most seemed agreeable to meeting at the end of the day.

Committee Reports

City: No report

Events:

- ✓ President Hansen provided members with a copy of our tentative Veterans Day Program. He reported that everything was on go. He will be contacting Larry Mosley for the Invocation and Benediction.
- ✓ President Hansen also brought up the subject of having better coordination with NAS on Memorial Day activities, it is becoming increasingly difficult for the public to enter the base for such events. It was also reported that events on the base for these activities are not well attended compared to Park events. Goal is to have our Memorial Day program on Monday but President Hansen wants to have better coordination with the base.

Maintenance and Planning:

- ✓ There was general discussion regarding removal of the hedges around the top of the Wall and the holly bushes around the base of the helicopter. This followed our AM discussion and review.



VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK FOUNDATION OF PENSACOLA, INC.
Board of Directors Meeting, October 11, 2016
MINUTES

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Lisa Rawson moved to remove the hedges around the top of the Wall and the holly bushes at the base of the helicopter and plant the new ground cover. Seconded by Peter Frano.

Discussion: President Hansen felt that this action needed to be review by the Mayor's office and specifically the Parks and Recreation Department and also to insure there was not safety requirement for the hedges. Plan would be to remove all the hedges along the top of the Wall. This also would only be done if we could have all the necessary work done by volunteers. Also would want to insure we had funds to purchase and plant the ground cover. Peter McKanna said according to Rick Dye with the REAP Program, this work could be accomplished by his group and that they have the necessary equipment and employees. Was some discussion about putting a barrier around the top of the Wall to prevent people from walking close to the top of the wall and falling off. Paul Brown feels there is no way as of now to figure our total costs but we should also plan on a barrier as part of our costs.

President Hansen said our motion should be to approach the City about the plan but we would not break down anything until we were sure of the total funding to complete the project; including removal of hedges, bushes, replacing ground cover and installing some type of barrier, if necessary.

Motion was modified; to let the City know that there is a sense of the board to remove the hedges and to see what their response would be. Motion Carried.

- ✓ Peter McKanna reported that the Marine Tower had been repaired and that the clock was now working properly. Verdin did not charge for the repair. It is believed that the problem was possibly caused by a lightning strike. It is recommended to add a surge protector. Estimated cost is \$365. It was suggested to ask Honor our Marines organization if they would pay for the cost.

Technology:

- ✓ David Glassman reported that the Wi-Fi installation is waiting on some hardware and should be installed and ready by Veterans Day.

Adjournment:

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:35. Next meeting is October 25 at 9:00AM.

Submitted by:

John B. Clark

Minutes approved on October 25, 2016 at the regular meeting of the Veterans Memorial Park Foundation Board of Directors.