



VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK FOUNDATION OF PENSACOLA, INC.
Board of Directors Meeting, October 12, 2017
MINUTES

Board Members Present

Michael Swinehart, Pete Frano, Jim Murphy, Lisa Rawson, Dave Glassman, Paul Entrekin, and Pete McKanna.

Board Members Absent

Butch Hansen, Jim Durr, Joe Glover, Roberto Rivera, Bill Weeks (City representative), and Ed Holt (legal advisor).

Guest(s) Present

Richard Penrose and Stacy Pruitt (applicants for the board); Lenny Collins, Gloria Collins, and Joe Fitch (Marine Corps League); Bill Campbell (local Veteran and poet); Tracy Ward (family member of returned KIA Veteran); and Warren Palmer (volunteer coordinator).

(Motions and actions taken are listed in red)

Call to Order and Welcome: Vice President Swinehart called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and asked those present to observe a moment of silence for those we memorialize in the Park especially: Spc. Alexander W. Missildine, 20, of Tyler, Texas, died Oct. 1 in Ninawa Province, Iraq, as a result of injuries sustained when an improved explosive device detonated near his convoy and 3rd Special Forces Group soldiers killed in Niger; Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Johnson of Springboro, Ohio; Staff Sgt. Dustin Wright of Lyons, Georgia; Staff Sgt. Bryan Black of Puyallup, Washington; and Sgt. La David T. Johnson, of Miami Gardens, FL. The Pledge of Allegiance followed the moment of silence.

Vice President Swinehart welcomed the visitors and briefly introduced them. Tracy Ward addressed the board and relayed the story of her mother's first husband, 1LT Ewart Sconiers, who has KIA on October 24, 1942. He remained MIA until August 2015 and his remains were finally repatriated on November 18, 2016. He will be laid to rest in Defuniak Springs on January 27, 2018. More information on his story can be found at bringsconiershome.com.

Minutes: The minutes of the September 14, 2017 board meeting and September 28, 2017 executive committee meeting were presented for approval. **Motion by Dave Glassman to approve minutes as presented. Second by Lisa Rawson. The motion carried.**

President's Report: Vice President Swinehart reported on the following:

- There has been no updated on the City engraving the kiosk sign.
- President Hansen and Vice President Swinehart met Escambia County representatives regarding the \$10,000 grant included in the County budget. The funding agreement was signed and the funds will be provided after confirmation is provided to the County that they have been obligated for their intended purpose.. Pete McKanna will request a contract from Randy New for the purchase of the bronze eagle and provide the signed contract to President Hansen; the signed contract will fulfill the County's requirement.
- Reviewed the status of Board openings and applications received (detailed in the President's Report from the last meeting).
- Recognized Stacy Pruitt for an update on the Veterans Day ceremony color guard. SgtMaj (retired) Pruitt reported a joint service color guard as desired would likely not be available but a color guard from MATSG 23 would be.
- Asked for a status of the Wall South plaques project. To date, 12 of 22 plaques have been sold. The order must be placed by October 16 for them to be installed by Veterans Day. The original plan was to sell every plaque before placing the order. The plaques sold to date cover the cost of the entire quantity. **Motion by Davie Glassman to finalize the inscriptions and submit the order by the close of business, October 16, for installation before Veterans Day. Second by Paul Entrekin. The motion carried.**
- There have been no security issues.
- Asked Lisa Rawson for an update on the Veterans Day Essay Contest.. Lisa reported that Creative Learning Academy has decided to have middle school students and possibly ROTC students participate in the Veterans Day contest and elementary student participate in the Memorial Day contest.



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Committee Reports

Maintenance and Planning: Pete McKanna reported on the following:

- The painting project is moving forward. A local Air Force Veterans who owns a pressure washing business has offered to clean the painted surfaces and surrounding areas, with the proper chemicals, for \$80 per hour and can perform the work on October 16 and 17, in preparation for painting on October 21. He estimates the work to take approximately 10 hours but it could be longer and will refund any monies awarded if the work takes less time than funded. **Motion by Pete McKanna to accept the offer from the local vendor with the cost capped at \$1,500.00 and any unused hours refunded (to be stipulated in the contract). Second by Pete Frano. The motion carried.**
- The Cobra is in need to rehabilitation and paint. One of the cables securing the aircraft is broken and hanging. The Cobra is the property of the Naval Aviation Museum and all maintenance is their responsibility and can only be done with their approval.. Pete Frano will contact the Museum regarding the broken cable and other maintenance.
- The shift to the new landscaping contract has been rough. The contractor insists on conducting maintenance on Sunday mornings which conflicts with many Park visitors. President Hansen will continue working with the City and the contractor on this issue.

Technology: Dave Glassman reported on the following:

- The solicitation email on the Wall South plaques was sent. Open rates on the email have been good but have apparently not led to any sales.
- The kiosk has a new internal fan installed is functioning well.
- Everything with the Park website is tracking well.

City: Bill Weeks was not present.

Finance and Marketing: Dave Glassman had nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report: Pete Frano reported on the following:

- The current account balance is \$47,815.
- A check for \$5,000.00 from the Sheriff's LET fund was received.

Volunteer Liaison: Warren Palmer had nothing to report but did ask for some clarification on for-profit businesses filming advertisements in the Park. He recently spoke with representatives from The Andrews Institute who he found filming a commercial.

Business From the Floor

Vice President Swinehart asked if there was any business from the floor. The following topics were discussed:

- Paul Entrekin asked that the Minutes reflect the Board's appreciation for Bill Weeks and his daughter who lowered the American Flag to prevent damage prior to Hurricane Nate and returning the Colors after the storm.
- Paul Entrekin discussed an issue that recently occurred before a Heroes Among Us event where a jeep was parked on the grass in the Park. He stated that some way to limit vehicle traffic on the grassy areas and the sidewalk may be needed. Dave Glassman will speak with the Marine Corps League Board to work out an arrangement for Heroes Among Us as the World War II jeep is used as a 'static display' and to carry/hold water for these events.
- Pete Frano had a draft of the Veterans Day program for anyone interested in reviewing it.

The meeting closed with recitation of a poem by Bill Campbell.



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Adjournment:

Vice President Swinhart asked if there was a motion to adjourn. Pete Frano motioned to adjourn. Second by Lisa Rawson. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 28 at 3:30PM.

Submitted by:

James M. Murphy