



VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK FOUNDATION OF PENSACOLA, INC.
Board of Directors Meeting, September 20, 2016
Pensacola City Hall
MINUTES

Board Members Present

John B. Clark, David Glassman, Peter McKanna, Joe Glover, Peter Frano, Butch Hansen, Lisa Rawson, Paul Brown, Paul Entrekin, Jack Brown (Immediate Past President).

Board Members Absent

Michael Swinehart, Roberto Rivera, Ed Holt (Legal Advisor) and Bill Weeks (City Representative).

Guest(s) Present

Warren Palmer, Volunteer Coordinator
Sgt. Major Hyatt
Colonel Clay Stackhouse

(Motions and actions taken are listed in red)

Call to Order and Welcome: President Hansen called the meeting was called to order at 9:00 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.

Introduction of Guest: President Hansen introduced retired Marine Colonel Clay Stackhouse who will be our guest speaker at the Veterans Day ceremony. Colonel Stackhouse thanked us for the opportunity to speak to veterans. He said that he plans to discuss the importance of all vets no matter what they did or how they served during their military service. David Glassman provided members with more background information on Colonel Stackhouse and thanked him for his service. Lisa Rawson commented on the essay contest for students who will write about the importance of the oath of service that all military members take when inducted. She encouraged Colonel Stackhouse to comment on the contest thank the students for participating.

Minutes: The minutes of the September 6, 2016 board meeting were presented for approval. **Motion by Lisa Rawson to approve minutes as presented. Second by Peter Frano. Motion Carried.**

Treasurers Report: Paul Brown reported that year to date donations, including in-kind, total \$24,589.28 and we currently have a bank balance of \$36,838.75. We have a YTD loss of \$36,685.70. Financial report attached to minutes.

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

- Master Planning Update: Met with the group from Texas, including the architect with experience in developing master plans for parks. Initial contact with this group was the result of a desire to expand the Marine Corps Memorial Bell Tower to recognize Marine aviators killed in the line of duty. The planning group agreed to work on a plan that would look at the Park as a gateway to downtown Pensacola and include the Hawkshaw Property, Admiral Mason and Veterans Memorial Park. Among considerations are:
 - ✓ A vet center that would treat PTSD
 - ✓ Forming a better alliance with NAS museum
 - ✓ Closer alignment with Visit Pensacola
- Any development that results in an increased tax base would be appealing to the City.

Followed some discussion about forming a closer relationship with the docents at the NAS Museum. Encourage them to learn about the Park and hopefully mention the Park during their tours at the museum. It was suggested inviting docents to the Veterans Day celebration for recognition since most of



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them are veterans. President Hansen agreed to follow up with the group and invited them to our Veterans Day celebration. Peter Frano also noted that the development of a master plan will help with fundraising and citizens will see that we have a vision for the Park.

- No major security issues being reported.
- There are still open two open seats on the board. There was a suggestion that perhaps a good source for potential board membership would be the NAS Museum docents.
- President Hansen is still working on grant applications to local foundations.
- Will try to connect with the REAP group to do a clean-up of the Park before Veterans Day.

Committee Reports

City: No report

Events: For the Veterans Day planning it was reported that:

- Washington High School will provide the color guard.
- Boogie contract for the event has been signed.
- Essay contest is on track: contest will be a response to the question; what does the oath of office mean for a military member?

Maintenance and Planning: Peter McKanna

- The replacement commemorative plaques to be sold and placed in front of the Wall (replacing existing light fixtures which no longer function) is moving forward. He will have an overview of them for the next meeting.
- Verdin should have the Marine Corps Memorial Tower repair completed by next week and the tower clocks should then be in working order.

GWOT: Paul Entrekin: Nothing new to report.

Technology: David Glassman

Discussion continued from last meeting regarding allowing Wi-Fi access at the Park. Paul Brown checked on our current agreement with Cox Communications and our current cost is \$149/month and current system is adequate for most Wi-Fi usage. Was also some discussion about access to inappropriate sites and how people would know Wi-Fi was available. After consideration of these factors, it was moved and seconded to install Wi-Fi at the Park. **Motion by John Clark. Second by Lisa Rawson. Motion Carried.**

Other Business:

- Warren Palmer discussed the possibility of having a tent for use at events. Cost estimates to be obtained. He agreed to man the booth for Veterans Day.
- Peter McKanna mentioned removal of the barrier at the top of the Wall which would allow for better visibility of the Park for those driving down Bayfront Parkway. Was noted that the current barrier on top of the Wall prevents people from walking along the top and possibly falling. Was agreed this might be a good move but President Hansen encouraged everyone to look at the current layout and it will be discussed at our next meeting. He said we should convene our next meeting at the Park so we could have a good idea of what is being discussed.
- Jack Brown reminded everyone that Michael Swinehart had e-mailed board members and requested a list of potential donors that we could contact for financial support. He provided his list for use by the group.



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Adjournment:

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:25. Next meeting is October 11 at 9:00AM and will convene at the Park.

Submitted by:

John B. Clark

Minutes were approved by the VMP Board of Directors on October 11, 2016 during their regular board meeting.