

VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMISSION

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

July 14, 2016

5:30 PM

Veteran's Council Conference Room, 4th Floor

Present:	Gary Grant, Chairman John Powers Sherri Schuchmann Kristin Delfs Jerry Ziese	Constance Arens, Vice Chairwoman Cindy Guckenberger Mike Jager, Executive Director Teri Van Dorston, Assistant Director Nikee Woods, Administrative Assistant
Excused:	Scott Olson	
Guests:	Mike Chismar Cheryl King Howard Purdy	Doug Nelson, Kernels CEO Scott Wilson, Kernels GM

The regular meeting of the Veterans Memorial Commission was called to order by Chairman Grant at 5:29 PM.

Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes:

Commissioner Powers made a motion to approve the minutes of the June meeting; seconded by Commissioner Delfs. The motion carried with no objections.

Financials:

Commissioner Powers made a motion to approve the July bills; seconded by Commissioner Delfs. The motion carried with no objections.

Veterans Memorial Stadium update with Cedar Rapids Kernels Management

Doug Nelson, CEO of the Cedar Rapids Kernels is present to share stadium improvements and a general update of the VMS along with Scott Wilson, Kernels General Manager to bring the VMC up to date on the ADA repairs. Attendance as of July 11, 2016 is at 105,000 which is 2,500 lower than last season but is on pace for the goal of 175,000-180,000. The Midwest All Star game on June 21, 2016 was a success as planned and the compliments from attendees towards the various aspects of the entire process-stadium, players, the field, etc. were well received by staff.

The Kernels report the stadium is in excellent condition, in part to the partnership with the VMC they are able to maintain and stay on top of things. This past fall, the epoxy of the concourse was updated along with painting the rafters and the new ribbon board. This upcoming year's plans include resealing and striping the parking lot in conjunction with the ADA sloping requirements of the parking lot. The last big item next year is updating aerating equipment, which was brought from the old stadium when they opened the VMS in 2002. With \$160,000 budgeted it allows \$100,000 to rollover and prepare for future projects such as replacing the pavilion in the left field decking.

Scott Wilson shares that there were approximately 30+ pages of recommended ADA improvements received for the stadium which have been completed. The other requirement was two-fold, having staff attend ADA training course, as well as sending an independent inspector to review any rooms that the Department of Justice ADA inspectors may have not gotten to. That inspection produced about 25 more pages with most work in the office area and many items already have been completed prior to March and they look to complete the rest after the 2016 season comes to an end. The parking lot is also scheduled to begin work in September.

Approval of CR Ball Club Inc. resolution #07-14-16

As a new Commissioner has joined the VMC, Cindy Guckenberger, Chairman Grant provided the background of the VMC & VMS partnership. Chairman Grant then reads resolution #07-14-16 for approval of the first half of Fiscal Year 2017 invoice of \$45,093.50. The resolution can be read in its entirety which accompanies these minutes in full. Commissioner Delfs made a motion to approve the resolution #07-14-16; seconded by Commissioner Powers. The motion carried with no objections.

Discussion on policy of monuments at AVM Park

Chairman Grant discusses the need for a policy to formalize future monument request(s) as well as any alterations to any existing monuments and brick placement at the All Veterans Memorial Park. Chairman Grant assigns Commissioner Powers as he is the Metro Veterans Council current President along with no more than three members from the VMC for quorum purposes. Commissioner Delfs asks for clarification if this is to be formed from national policies and Chairman Grant specifies that it should be tailored specifically for the AVM Park. Commissioners Arens & Delfs requests to join this policy planning team. Commissioner Powers asked for any update on the Freedom Rock project of Iowa. E.D. Jager updates the VMC that he spoke with FR artist, Ray Sorenson, and that fundraising for a Cedar Rapids FR have begun. It was also mentioned that a Korean War Veterans group has also been fundraising for the FR in hopes of placement at the AVM Park. Chairman Grant regroups the VMC and directs them to coordinate their policy developing efforts and asks for an update on said policy by the 2016 September VMC monthly meeting.

Museum Report-Assistant Director:

A.D. Van Dorston reports that the "In-Flight" exhibit opening was a great success and still is receiving a continuous flow of foot traffic to view the exhibit. The Freedom Festival Pancake breakfast brought over 1000 guests into the VMB with many taking time to view our exhibits. A.D. is now able to wrap up many tasks: the 2016 brick order; returning Leonard Kelly's Purple Heart Medal to the Iowa Gold Star Museum; restoration plan for the T33 on loan to the VMC; VMB art exhibit for Community of Artists and Veterans; SAWM display; Anniversary of the 90th birthday of the VMB plans, and the WWI exhibit forthcoming in April 2017. A.D. notes she also recently provided a tour for a daycare of approximately 80 students from Kindergarten through 5th grade.

Communication and Update from the MVC:

Commissioner Powers reports that the MVC has begun working on the Veterans Day program to be held on November 11, 2016 in the Coliseum of the VMB. Commissioner Powers mentioned an additional communication was to be shared—but tabled comments so the MVC could regroup before official comment.

Public Comment:

Mike Chismar shares that July 23, 2016 will be the Anniversary of the Act of 1990, commemorating ADA. Midwest Military Outreach will be hosting an event starting at 3:30 p.m. with the game to follow at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Ziese made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m.; seconded by Commissioner Schuchmann. The motion carried with no objections.

Respectfully submitted,

Nikee Woods, Admin. Assistant

CHAIRMAN _____ Date

VICE CHAIRWOMAN _____ Date