

VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMISSION

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

October 13, 2016

5:30 PM

Veteran's Council Conference Room, 4th Floor

Present: Gary Grant, Chairman
John Powers
Jerry Ziese
Scott Olson, Councilman
Teri Van Dorston, Assistant Director
Cindy Guckenberger
Sherri Schuchmann
Kristin Delfs
Mike Jager, Executive Director
Nikee Woods, Administrative Assistant

Excused: Constance Arens, Vice Chairwoman

Guests: Mike Chismar

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 September meeting; seconded by Commissioner Schuchmann. The motion carried with no objections.

Financials:

Commissioner Powers inquired to the low amount of invoices referencing the Flood of 2016. E.D. Jager shared that many invoices had not yet been provided by vendors and refunds for the five canceled weddings would also be forthcoming. Commissioner Powers made a motion to approve the October bills; seconded by Commissioner Delfs. The motion carried with no objections.

Flood 2016:

Chairman Grant thanked the VMC staff for their hard work to protect the VMB as well as VMB tenants- the Cedar Rapids Rollergirls and the Cedar Rapids Boxing Club. E.D. Jager stated that the difference between 2008 and 2016 was clear, with having more time to prepare and more leadership present. A timeline of the Flood of 2016:

Date	Parties Involved	Process
9/22/16	VMC Staff	Moved items in basement to higher ground
9/23/16	VMC Staff	Moved items in basement to higher ground
9/23/16	CRRG, CRBC, VMC staff	Filled sandbags at VMB
9/24/16	CRRG, CRBC, VMC staff	Filled and placed sandbags at VMB-canceled wedding
9/24/16	Schrader Excavating	Placed and filled hesco barriers
9/25/16	VMC Staff	Building check
9/26/16	VMC Staff	VMB flood prep work-began continuous staffing

Date	Parties Involved	Process
9/27/16	VMC Staff	Onsite flood work
9/28/16	VMC Staff & volunteer Jim Payton	Onsite flood work
9/29/16	VMC Staff	Onsite flood work
9/30/16	VMC Staff	Onsite flood work
10/1/16	VMC Staff, CRRG and CRBC	Sandbag removal and onsite flood work
10/2/16	VMC Staff	Flood cleanup
10/3/16	VMC Staff	Flood cleanup-end to continuous staffing
10/3/16	Schrader Excavating	Removed hesco barriers
10/4/16	Servpro	Cleaned sand from VMB exterior

Summarizing, there was approximately 3-4" for 60 hours on the Armory floor along with 5' in the underground command center against the flood door. Another benefit was working with Park CR as they brought in a large sump pump on 3rd Avenue Bridge that helped pump out flood water from the underground parking ramp, which at one time was 4' below the crest of the river. Electrical power stayed on throughout the rise of the Flood of 2016 with Alliant coming routinely to check the power vault. Items lost and to repair: older furniture too heavy to remove prior to the crest, electrical heaters, electrical wiring and cabinets, fire controls, and repairs to our sump pumps. The process to return the VMB to full operation is ongoing at this time.

Councilman Olson suggests looking at areas for improvement as we had during 2008 to improve yet again in case of an unfortunate next time.

Museum Report-Assistant Director:

Due to the focus on the Flood of 2016 and its recovery, A.D. Van Dorston is just recently able to return to museum donations. Most recent donation included a very sizable WWII donation that included items from an Army Air Corpsman, including a Distinguished Flying Cross, a bomber jacket, a WWI Garrison hat, dog tags and many other items. Another significant donation to join the VMC Collection was two grouping of items being deaccessioned by the First Division Museum at Cantigny. While the items were not related to the First Division they did have an Iowa connection and include pieces from a WWII Combat Engineer: assorted archival material, photos, decorations, rank, and collar insignia. The Johnson Father Son grouping included items from service during the WWII as well as items from the Pancho Villa Expedition era: Pennant, cotton service coat, bandage packet, assorted small insignia and archival material from both father and son.

Communications from the Metro Veterans Council – including upcoming “Safe Halloween” at Ushers Ferry in cooperation with Parks Department and planning report for Veterans Day Ceremony to be held Friday, November 11th at 10:00 a.m. in the Veterans Memorial Coliseum:

Commissioner Powers shares that the MVC finalized the Veterans Day program with details of guest speaker, the Veteran of the Year, and music accompaniments from the Horizons Band and choir of the Jefferson High School. Commissioner Delfs shares that she is ready for the Safe Halloween event coming up on October 23, 2016 at Ushers Ferry and is finishing final touches. Chairwoman Arens will be joining Commissioner Delfs in handing the materials out during the event. Commissioner Delfs then shared a printout of upcoming MVC and VMC meetings to those who would like a copy.

Public Comment:

Councilman Olson shared that mediation would beginning on Monday, October 24, 2016 in hopes to settle disputes between VMC and Rinderknecht.

Commissioner Powers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:58 p.m.; seconded by Commissioner Delfs. The motion carried with no objections.

Respectfully submitted,

Nikee Woods, Admin. Assistant

CHAIRMAN _____
Date

VICE CHAIRWOMAN _____
Date