

**VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMISSION**

**CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA**

**February 11, 2016**

**5:30 PM**

**Veteran's Council Conference Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor**

Present:	Constance Arens, Vice Chairwoman	Jerry Ziese
	John Powers	Mike Jager, Executive Director
	Sherri Schuchmann	Nikee Woods, Administrative Assistant
	Kristin Delfs	Teri Van Dorston, Assistant Director
Excused:	Gary Grant, Chairman	Pat Kane
	Scott Olson	
Guests:	Mike Chismar	Tom Hauer

The regular meeting of the Veterans Memorial Commission was called to order by Vice Chairwoman Arens at 5:31 PM.

**Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes:**

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

**Financials:**

Commissioner Delfs asked for a completion update of the of the required ADA improvements at the Veteran Memorial Stadium. E.D. Jager shares that the process is about 50% complete, as some work is reliant on weather for contractor access. Commissioner Powers comments that the budget looks in line to actuals. E.D. Jager shares that the last monthly report he viewed confirms that we are less than 50% expended on all categories, excluding overtime costs; though rentals offset that category. Commissioner Delfs made a motion to approve the current bills; seconded by Commissioner Powers. The motion carried with no objections.

**Museum Report-Assistant Director:**

A.D. Van Dorston reports that the Horsky model airplane collection once housed at the EIA, then transferred to the History Center, has transitioned on long-term loan to the VMC. With Major Horsky, who served our country from 1944-1965, being a Cedar Rapids native, it was a perfect fit for the VMC to display this collection for public viewing in the 4<sup>th</sup> floor Veterans Chamber lobby. A.D. Van Dorston proudly shared photographic inventory of all 186 model planes as well as details regarding Major Horsky's dedicated service with all present at the meeting. A grand opening is scheduled for July 1, 2016 in partnership with the Freedom Festival activities. The family of Major Horsky has financially contributed to this endeavor while the VMC also received an abundance of assistance from the local Alexander Lippish Modeling Club documenting and repairing the Horsky Collection as needed. From Commissioner Ziese's suggestion to honor this local hero, E.D. Jager will investigate opportunities.

In connection with Grant Wood's 125<sup>th</sup> birthday year, A.D. Van Dorston shares that (in partnership with Rockwell Collins) the VMB was selected as one of the locations of the Cedar Rapids Convention and Visitors Bureau "Overalls All Over" project. "Overalls All Over" will include approximately 30 life-sized 6' fiberglass statues depicting the farmer and daughter from Grant Wood's famous "American Gothic" painting. A.D. Van Dorston shared the artist, Julius Caviras', proposed design of the VMB selected statues with those present at the meeting. All 30 statues will be on display at various Cedar Rapids locations May through September 2016.

Totals from 2015 shows 230 items received into collection and 24 thus far for 2016. A.D. Van Dorston also reports that with assistance from the dedicated Veteran VMC volunteer, Kevin Ringold, a free library is in progress to be placed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Lobby space and any donations of books are appreciated.

**Communication and Update from the MVC:**

Commissioner Powers reported that the MVC has begun to work on the Memorial Day 2016 program at their February monthly meeting. Commissioner Powers also shared he has been documenting and working to meet with Tom Watson to repair damage on monuments located at the AVM Park.

**Public Comment:**

Commissioner Ziese asks that the VMB flags be replaced on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Bridge due to visible deterioration. Commissioner Powers shares that the next Veterans Stand Down event has been scheduled for September 9, 2016.

Commissioner Powers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:27 PM; seconded by Commissioner Delfs. The motion carried with no objections.

Respectfully submitted,



Nikee Woods, Admin. Assistant

CHAIRMAN \_\_\_\_\_ Date

VICE CHAIRWOMAN \_\_\_\_\_ Date