

VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMISSION

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

January 14, 2013

The regular meeting of the Veterans Memorial Commission was called to order by Chairman Jerry Ziese at 5:27 PM.

Present:	Jerry Ziese, Chairman Jim Bruner Sarah Else George Hamman, Commissioner Emeritus	Patrick Reinert John Powers Connie Arens Mike Jager, Director
Excused:	Gary Grant	
Guest:	Joe AOssey	

Commissioner Powers made a motion to approve the minutes of the November meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Reinert. The motion carried with no objections.

After discussing the new boiler equipment, Commissioner Reinert made a motion to approve the current bills. Seconded by Commissioner Powers. The motion carried with no objections.

The Director gave a report on the bids for Phase 3. Last fall this was bid as a single package coming back at \$6.56 million. This time it was broken down into separate bid packages for a total of \$5.3 to \$5.5 million; the biggest difference is no general contractor and will be within the budget. There was a question about when the elevators would be working; the holdup is Century Link, need to pull the phone lines and hook up for the fire alarm system before an inspection can be scheduled. It was asked if there was a separate budget for the museum items. The permanent repairs are a part of the construction and are a FEMA project; for general shop and building contents, to date have spent \$80,000 out of \$550,000 and will use that money for fixture, furniture, equipment, etc. in the fitness center and the museum. Commissioner Reinert commented the CIP fund with \$1,375,783 is available. The Director stated that Phase 1 is at \$6.1 million, Phase 2 at \$5 million, Phase 3 at \$5.3 million, another half million on additional projects plus the 10% architectural fee and construction manager's fee, that CIP money will be spoken for. There are also issues in the auditorium with the stage area, lighting, rigging, sound system, seats for the floor, etc. The Chairman added we may need to do fund raising; need to get the rental spaces up and running for income, we are lucky to have the CIP fund money plus now giving an extra \$100,000 a year for the Veterans Memorial Stadium.

The Director stated the building is close to substantial completion for Phase I and are at a point where we are going to be taking it room by room. The lobby and the museum gallery spaces are examples; a group is schedule to view the window in February. He has been working with and recommends affiliating with two organizations that are offering services for veterans. The Great Books Foundation is looking for comfortable free space to have veterans meet to have dialogue and discussion. The other is Hands for Heroes Program (a national program)/Hands in Harmony Clinic (massage clinic). The Hands for Heroes program offers free massages for veterans once a month, Hands in Harmony is the local affiliate. He has also spoken with a chiropractor who would be willing to spend his time, around their

schedule, for free adjustments for veterans in the same space. This room could be outfitted for \$5,000-\$6,000 and be available for both massage and adjustments. This too would be free space. Commissioner Else suggested structuring this as a limited commitment and not open ended.

The Director said the east and west alleys are in need of repair, at an estimated cost of \$330,000. FEMA only allows the use of our money for inside repairs and it only makes sense to do the repairs while the building is still in the reconstruction phase. It was suggested if you want to get this on the table and talk to the City; it needs to be done as soon as possible. Chairman Ziese will make an appointment to discuss this with the City Manager.

Commissioner Else made a motion to approve the resolution (01-01-13) and invoice for the 2nd half of the FY13 payment to the Cedar Rapids Ball Club, Inc. in the amount of \$42,653.50. Seconded by Commissioner Powers. The motion carried with no objections.

Commissioner Else made a motion to keep the officers the same. Seconded by Commissioner Reinert. The motion carried with no objections. (Chairman – Jerry Ziese and Vice Chairman – Patrick Reinert)

There was no discussion from the Metro Veterans Council since no meeting was held in December.

Mr. Aosse belongs to the Cedar Rapids Chapter of Veterans for Peace. He invited the Commission to come hear their National president, Leah Bolger, speak at the Presbyterian Church on January 23rd at 3 PM.

The Director anticipates the February commission meeting will be held at the Veterans Memorial Building.

Commissioner Powers asked about the status of the truck; per the Director, direction has been given to the Fleet Manager and there is no word yet.

With no further business, Commissioner Reinert made a motion to adjourn at 6:15 PM. Seconded by Commissioner Bruner. The motion carried with no objections.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Greene

CHAIRMAN _____
Date

VICE CHAIRMAN _____
Date