

## VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMISSION

### CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

**June 9, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Veterans Memorial Commission was called to order by Chairman Jerry Ziese at 5:30 PM.

Present:	Jerry Ziese, Chairman Kristin Delfs John Powers Gary Grant Teri Van Dorston, Asst. Director	Connie Arens Jim Bruner Sarah Else Mike Jager, Director
Guests:	Jim Payton Doug Nelson	Cheryl King

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

There was some discussion on the bills that included: the flood insurance, final payments and the elevators. Commissioner Powers made a motion to approve the current bills; seconded by Commissioner Delfs. The motion carried with no objections. On the July agenda, Commissioner Grant would like to have a discussion regarding the non-fema flood projects deficit of \$2.311 million.

Doug Nelson, General Manager of the Cedar Rapids Kernels, updated the Commission on the ball season and stadium. This is the second season with the Minnesota Twins; attendance last year was just over 180,000. They are currently in 7<sup>th</sup> place due to injuries and pitching for the first half of this season; second half looks better with a healthier team and the Twins sent two more top pitching prospects. The Twins are great about supporting the community outreach programs. The July 4<sup>th</sup> game is "Military Heroes Night", they are creating card sets for the 45 individuals; those veterans/families will be honored at the game. July 5<sup>th</sup> is "Quilts to Honor Veterans Night" – 60 quilts to be donated to veterans and a raffle for one special quilt.

Regarding the stadium, with the CIP fund – 2012 the video board was replaced; 2013 there was field work done (new sod, new warning track material and outfield wall pads); 2014 will address drainage issues; 2015 looking to replace seats, epoxy floor along the concourses, the goal is to improve items that are noticeable by the fans; 2016 will host the Midwest All Star game.

Commissioner Grant made a motion to table the next two agenda items in light of the current deficit, unless it is an emergency. The Director disagreed, have been working with the City I T department on our website, at least see the presentation; the museum docent person has been discussed in previous meetings. The Director feels there have been two constructive discussions with City Council members, the Mayor, Finance Director and City Manager regarding the issues. Commissioner Else would like to hear the website presentation. Commissioner Bruner seconded the motion. The motion failed with Commissioners Bruner and Grant as the only members voting for this motion.

The Assistant Director and Commissioner Delfs gave a presentation on the proposed new website. The City I T department will be doing an enhanced version on what we already have. The City is looking at revamping the whole look of the City website/pages. Commissioner Delfs is volunteering to be our social media coordinator (Facebook); she is currently working with Facebook to take ownership of our page and also needs to sign a waiver with the City I T department. Commissioner Else made a motion to approve the

\$1,800 cost to proceed with the development of an enhanced Veterans Memorial website by the City I T department; seconded by Commissioner Powers. The motion carried with one objection (Commissioner Grant).

The Assistant Director gave a museum progress report. New donations are still streaming in; the Vietnam exhibit is taking shape and aiming to have it open by Veterans Day with an open reception happening the Thursday and Friday before. The building will be open on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July (like last year) with the Director and Assistant Director volunteering their time; will also have the USS Iowa model on display in the lobby.

The Assistant Director talked about the intern/contract person, this is basically a summer seasonal position. This person could help with the website, act as a museum docent on weekdays and Saturdays, and help take over some tours, rental tours. The Iowa Veterans Welcome Center (IVWC) is open on Saturdays, the roller girls would like to practice on Saturdays, and also the fitness center would like to be open as well as other endeavors. This would be a \$10-\$12 an hour position as opposed to having our employees come in at overtime pay on Saturdays. The Director said we have reached out to universities, the U of I eventually provided a name of a person that just finished up with their Bachelor of Fine Arts concentrating in 3 dimensional design, he feels the person is a good qualified candidate. Commissioner Grant thought there were part time seasonal positions available; they are for maintenance workers. For the future, Commissioner Grant suggested having Human Resources start the process now for a seasonal intern position. After some discussion, Commissioner Else made a motion to hire the museum docent/design assistant intern/contract for services for 3-4 months; seconded by Commission Delfs. The motion carried with one objection (Commissioner Bruner).

Jim Payton gave an update on the auditorium seating repair project; out of the 632 seats 250 are done. Once the seats are completed, will start on the backs. The material has been given to us at Kamal's cost; Chairman Ziese and Commissioner Else suggested the Director and the IVWC send a letter of thanks to Kamal's for them to use as a tax deduction.

On Saturday morning, May 24<sup>th</sup>, the IVWC received donation of over 3,000 lbs. of food for a veteran's food pantry. The east alley entry door was left open; the Director had a conversation with IVWC which lead to a short discussion. The Director has been in the last two Saturdays to make sure the doors have been secured.

Commissioner Bruner reported there was a terrific turn out for the Memorial Day Services.

With no further business, Commissioner Grant made a motion to adjourn at 6:45 PM; seconded by Commissioner Bruner. The motion carried with no objections.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Greene

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

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