

**VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMISSION**

**CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA**

**June 9, 2016**

**5:30 PM**

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

Present:	Gary Grant, Chairman John Powers Sherri Schuchmann Kristin Delfs Scott Olson	Constance Arens, Vice Chairwoman Mike Jager, Executive Director Teri Van Dorston, Assistant Director Nikee Woods, Administrative Assistant
Excused:	Jerry Ziese	Pat Kane
Guests:	Mike Chismar Cheryl King Howard Purdy	Ralph Russel Jim Flitz, City of Cedar Rapids Attorney

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 April meeting; seconded by Commissioner Delfs. The motion carried with no objections.

**Financials:**

Commissioner Delfs inquired if the Veterans Memorial Stadium Improvements were the remainder of related ADA improvements to which E.D. Jager shared most were, with additional work going forward as the VMS is halfway through their 10 year CIP plan. Chairman Grant reports that he invited Doug Nelson from the CR Kernels to join the VMC July monthly meeting for a report to the Commission. Commissioner Powers asked if at that time would the VMC also be approving one of the biannual levy invoices from the Kernels and E.D. Jager indicated that was possible as they typically invoice in January and July. Commissioner Delfs made a motion to approve the May and June bills; seconded by Commissioner Powers. The motion carried with no objections.

**Museum Report-Assistant Director:**

A.D. Van Dorston asked E.D. Jager to speak about the recent donation from Mike Hamman son of former longtime VMC Emeritus, George Hamman. Due to the rumored unfortunate past of some items from the VMC collection, E.D. Jager had mentioned to Mike Hamman, that it was likely his father may have personally retained collection items at his home and that if the family came across any items while going through his estate and if they'd consider it, the VMC would appreciate any VMC items that they may find. Mike Hamman has in turn brought in a variety of items: WWI Officer's uniform; WWII Navy Chief's uniform; Purple Heart and a Bronze Star Combat Infantryman Badge including a letter from an attorney confirming that the medals were to be donated to the VMC; and also an anchor.

A.D. Van Dorston states all the other items will be catalogued as time permits as her main focus has been shifted to the Grand Opening of the Freedom Festival sponsored event, "In Flight: The Horsky Collection of Model Airplanes". The A.D. reminds everyone that the Grand Opening event will be on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 from 2:00-4:00 pm in the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Chambers. A few sample informational pieces that have been sent off for printing for public distribution were then shared with the Commission.

Other exhibit news, the Purple Heart on loan from the Gold Star Museum in conjunction with the Leonard Kelly ceremony, was granted an extension for the exhibit to be on display past the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, knowing that many visitors will be in the VMB during the Freedom Festival pancake breakfast to be held in the Coliseum.

The final exhibit to report on is a loan of WWII items to the VFW Post #788 for a tribute they have planned on June 11, 2016 held at the Cedar Rapids VFW from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. A.D. Van Dorston will be onsite with the loaned items during the event.

#### **Communication and Update from the MVC:**

Commissioner Powers reports that the Memorial Day program was combined with the dedication of the Purple Heart Monument. Commissioner Powers gave many thanks to Howard Purdy and Cheryl King for their assistance for the program while he was recovering in the hospital. Commissioner Powers shared it was nice seeing the Commissioners from the VMC and many representatives from the City of Cedar Rapids City Council, not including the larger than normal public crowd.

#### **Public Comment:**

Chairman Grant reminds Commissioners that to add agenda items, please contact the E.D. via email. If there is less than one week prior to the monthly VMC meeting, please contact Chairman Grant directly. E.D. Jager updates the VMC that The Building Trades Retirees is preparing a plan to submit to the Joint Building Trades Council for materials and labor to refurbish the AVM. That is to include remodeling the electric, brickwork, repairs to any damaged monument, and work to the poles.

#### **Closed Session:**

At 5:44 p.m., Commissioner Delfs made a motion that the Commission may go into closed session to discuss strategy with counsel in matters that are presently in litigation or where litigation is imminent where its disclosure would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the position of the governmental body in that litigation pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.5 (1) (c); seconded by Commissioner Powers. The VMC was polled by Chairman Grant. Ayes: Commissioners Powers, Delfs, Grant, Arens and Schuchmann. The motion carried with no objections.

The closed meeting session began at 5:49 p.m. in the conference room of the 7<sup>th</sup> Floor of the VMB. Present at the closed meeting session: City of Cedar Rapids City Attorney, Jim Flitz; City of Cedar Rapids City Council Members Scott Olson and Ralph Russel; VMC staff A.A. Woods, A.D. Van Dorston, and E.D. Jager; Commissioners Grant, Arens, Powers, Delfs, and Schuchmann; attorney Edward Remsburg joined via conference call. Chairman Grant motioned to move out of closed session at 6:17 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Delfs. The Commission was polled by Chairman Grant. Ayes: Commissioner Delfs, Schuchmann, Arens, Powers and Grant. The motion carried with no objections.

The Commission reconvened to an open session at 6:20 p.m. in the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Veterans Council Conference Room.

**Resolution:**

Chairman Grant asked for a motion to approve resolution #06-09-16, that the VMC recommends the Cedar Rapids City Council approve a settlement of a disputed claim with Rinderknecht Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$113,924.00 relating to the pending and disputed change orders, not related to the delays attributed to asbestos or design delay, subject to legal counsel review. Chairwoman Arens motioned to approve the resolution; seconded by Commissioner Delfs. The motion carried with no objections.

Commissioner Delfs made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:21 p.m.; seconded by Chairwoman Arens. The motion carried with no objections.

Respectfully submitted,

Nikee Woods, Admin. Assistant

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

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