

VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMISSION

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

March 10, 2014

The regular meeting of the Veterans Memorial Commission was called to order by Chairman Jerry Ziese at 5:31 PM.

Present:	Jerry Ziese, Chairman	Connie Arens
	Jim Bruner	John Powers
	Sarah Else	Kristin Delfs
	Terry VanDorston, Asst. Director	Mike Jager, Director
Excused:	Gary Grant	George Hamman, Commissioner Emeritus
Guests:	Councilman Olson	Carol Martin

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

Commissioner Arens made a motion to approve the current bills; seconded by Commissioner Bruner. The motion carried with no objections.

The Director talked about the Alliant Energy bills and there were some issues: 1) a solar power study was conducted to look at the feasibility of putting solar PV cells on the coliseum roof and in looking at previous bills it was discovered we were being charged the wrong rate, 2) the sub meter for the underground parkade was not installed but there is one now, 3) in working with Dean Archer, who manages the energy management system, most of the major electric systems have been on an occupied status and now that construction is done he will be able to program the system with a set schedule.

The Assistant Director gave a museum progress report update. Gallery – a Civil War print is now on display along with replacing a couple of paper pieces. Collections – donations are still being received and cataloging those accordingly. Unpacking items from Chicago; starting to work on the exhibit design for the United Spanish War Veterans section with the goal to be done by Freedom Festival time; working on the concept for the Vietnam exhibit for the Hamman Gallery with the goal to be open this fall or by Veterans Day. She was asked about her procedure for thanking people for their donations; the Chairman would like to send a thank you as well. A volunteer is assisting her which led to the discussion of getting an intern.

The Director has spoken with representatives from the Community 1st Credit Union about a sponsorship opportunity, it is currently in the draft stage, but gave the Commission the highlights, would probably do a one year sponsorship for \$10,000. Some Commission members have some serious concerns. Councilman Olson suggested tagging on with the City; they are working with VenuWorks to recruit sponsors for the remaining unnamed facilities. They are going to do a study and will do the marketing, at no charge, to find those prospects; check with Sharon Cummins to see if you can tag on with the City's efforts.

Update on the building progress report will be held at the end of the meeting as a closed session.

Commissioner Bruner reported at the last Metro Veterans Council meeting the Memorial Day program was discussed.

The Director stated the Kernel's kick off for the season will be Wednesday, April 2nd at the Ox Yoke Inn; the first rental in the coliseum will be this weekend, Iowa Amateur Gymnastics Association will be having their State meet; William Penn College will have a "Military Career Summit" in the coliseum on April 15th, which lead to a discussion on getting the word out to the veterans organizations; General Mills is starting a Veterans Employment group working with their Human Resources – they have 50 production positions to fill and would like to have a hiring fair, in March, to hire veterans for these positions – the Director will be available if they want to do an educational seminar on a Saturday – will forward information once it is finalized.

Carol Martin made some comments: 1) since the building progress report/update was on the agenda and not as a closed meeting, it should be held in public, 2) when having events, and as Commissioner Else mentioned a few months ago, would like to see the rate schedule for the different rooms, the insurance requirements and what is expected from a lessee, with no favoritism because word does get out. She recalled what was expected when she held a forum in the building. The Commission discussed the website and advertising; Councilman Olson will contact the IT Director and also check on the signage issue. The rates, floor plans have been given to CRACVB.

Commissioner Else stated a local group is having a "Shoot for Hero's" on June 14th, this is a family event.

Commissioner Powers will be receiving a Quilt of Valor and wanted to know the best date to have it presented; Commissioner Bruner suggested Veterans Day since the services will be back in the building.

Councilman Olson stated he is the new liaison for the Veterans Memorial Commission and will attend as many meetings as possible and if there are issues that he can help out with just let him know. Since he is an architect, in the business, knows all of the contractors that worked on the building and if you want some volunteer help, he would be willing to mediate to prevent having a lawsuit.

Commissioner Delfs stated "Writing Your Way Back Home" will be held in different areas of the building, with several free workshops to start at 5 pm on Friday, March 28, all day the 29th and the morning of the 30th.

Commissioner Delfs made a motion to enter into a closed session at 6:25 PM to discuss matters involving possible legal actions and to share a Confidential Attorney Client memo from the City Attorney; seconded by Commissioner Bruner. The motion carried with no objections.

Commissioner Bruner made a motion to come out of the closed session at 7:00 PM; seconded by Commissioner Delfs. The motion carried with no objections.

Commissioner Delfs made a motion to adjourn at 7:01 PM; seconded by Commissioner Powers. The motion carried with no objections.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Greene

CHAIRMAN _____
Date

VICE CHAIRMAN _____
Date