

VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMISSION

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

November 9, 2015

5:30 PM

Veteran's Council Conference Room, 4th Floor

Present: Gary Grant, Chairman Constance Arens, Vice Chairwoman
John Powers Nikee Woods, Administrative Assistant
Kristin Delfs Teri Van Dorston, Assistant Director
Jerry Ziese Mike Jager, Executive Director
Councilman Scott Olson Mayor Ron Corbett

Excused: Hattie Holmes

Guests: Bill Laham Mike Chismar

The regular meeting of the Veterans Memorial Commission was called to order by Chairwoman Arens at 5:28 PM.

Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes:

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

Financials:

Commissioner Powers questions if the electrical billing has returned to average with E.D. Jager reporting that energy management is always a work in progress with our staff. However, in way of reference, a recent energy efficiency commercial building tax analysis was completed by a contractor on the VMB. They took the building plan, square footage, footprint, building materials and utility rates to calculate our annual utility cost at \$234,184 which is approximately 55% more than our actual billing. Commissioner Delfs asks if our water service included recycling. E.D. Jager shared we have no billing in regards to water use and our recycling vendor saves from using staff manpower from sorting and transporting. Commissioner Powers made a motion to approve the current bills; seconded by Commissioner Delfs. The motion carried with no objections.

Museum Report/Assistant Director:

A.D. Van Dorston reports no updates on collections. The tunnel installation in the Vietnam exhibit is complete as well as the textural interpretation with North Vietnamese artifacts in place. The 1971-72 timeline panel is also in the final stages of design and will be mounted soon.

Communication and Update from the MVC:

MVC is ready for the Veterans Day event and Commissioner Powers reviewed the program with those present.

Public Comment:

- Bill Laham, representative from Jefferson High School Class of '66, updates the VMC on the proposed AVM Purple Heart Monument topic; first introduced at the August 10, 2015 monthly meeting. With momentum already gained, the JHS '66 class has contractors, vendors and financial donors ready, willing and hoping to see this monument completed by Memorial Day 2016 on behalf of the citizens of Eastern Iowa.
- Commissioner Powers shares photographs with attendees taken recently at AVM. One of the entrance columns appears to be damaged from a snow plow incident. E.D. Jager will look into this topic again.
- Mike Chismar reports that Tuesday, November 10, is the 240th anniversary of the Marine Corps.

Commissioner Ziese made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 PM; seconded by Commissioner Delfs. The motion carried with no objections.

Respectfully submitted,

Nikee Woods, Admin. Assistant

CHAIRMAN _____ Date

VICE CHAIRMAN _____ Date