

VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMISSION

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

August 10, 2015

5:30 PM

Veteran's Council Conference Room, 4th Floor

Present: Gary Grant, Chairman
John Powers
Jerry Ziese
Kristin Delfs
Councilman Scott Olson

Constance Arens, Vice Chairwoman
Mike Jager, Executive Director
Teri Van Dorston, Assistant Director
Nikee Woods, Admin. Asst.

Excused: Hattie Holmes

Guests: Doug Nelson, CR Kernels CEO
Tony Hlas
Mike Chismar

Scott Wilson, CR Kernels GM
Chuck Elias

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

Commissioner Ziese motioned that the Veterans Memorial Building moves to place the building's flags at half-staff for Commissioners, past and present that pass away until their burial is complete. Commissioner Powers seconded the motion. Discussion of the motion included Executive Director Jager requesting clarification that due to Commissioner Bruner's passing on August 7, 2015, if the Commissioners wished the flags to be positioned at half-staff effective immediately until end of day August 11, 2015. E.D. Jager would also have documentation placed on the building's entrance clarifying the reason to the public and building tenants. The Commission confirmed as such and the motion carried with no objections.

Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes:

Commissioner Powers made a motion to approve the minutes of the June meeting; seconded by Vice Chairwoman Arens. The motion carried with no objections.

Financials:

Commissioner Powers asked for clarification of the June billing of Alliant the increase. It was clarified that the Accounts Payable Department informed the VMB administration there was an error on Alliant's behalf showing a payment incorrectly posted to our account. Once the error was found, the amount became due on the account. Commissioner Ziese made a motion to approve the current bills; seconded by Commissioner Powers. The motion carried with no objections.

Communication from the Cedar Rapids Kernels:

Prior to Doug Nelson, Cedar Rapids Kernels CEO, updating the VMC and meeting attendees of the topic at hand, Chairman Grant shares background information about the city-wide ADA audit as well as the independent architecture firms ongoing identification of all city buildings that were not originally

audited; one of the buildings being the VMB. Mr. Nelson updates the Commission of the 170 compliance items that the City has settled with the US Department of Justice Americans with Disabilities Act listed during a past audit of the All Veterans Memorial Stadium:

- 137 items have been or will be completed by end of the Kernels' season.
- The dugout ADA compliance list item was appealed and the US DOJ agreed to set aside this item.
- The Kernels' will need assistance from the City of Cedar Rapids to complete the remaining 32 items. Mr. Nelson anticipates such assistance to include: developing solutions, at times with engineer involvement; beginning the bidding process and selecting contractors. Mr. Nelson is unable to provide a firm timeline for these various items including:
 - The handicap parking spot slopes.
 - The toilets and sinks placement.
 - The suites' and souvenir store doorways to be increased in width
 - Add handicap accessible lockers in locker rooms.

Mr. Nelson concludes that there was a recent audit of the Veterans Memorial Stadium on behalf of Major League Baseball and that audit was passed with flying colors.

Approval of Cedar Rapids Kernels Resolution and Invoice:

Commissioner Ziese made a motion to approve the resolution (07-01-15) and invoice for the 1st half of the FY16 payment to the Cedar Rapids Ball Club, Inc. in the amount of \$44,841.00; seconded by Commissioner Delfs. The motion carried with no objections.

Proposed Purple Heart Medal Memorial:

The Jefferson Class of 1966 has approached E.D. Jager and proposed a monument to be placed at the Eastern Iowa All Veterans Memorial Park, with all costs for the monument to be furnished on behalf of their 50th Class Project. The location specifically would be past the bricks on the left hand side if facing AVM Park; to the right of the Korean War Memorial. A picture was provided at the meeting of a similar monument. Discussion was had in regards to costs, engraving of names, and dimensions. VMC were in favor of allowing the JHS Class of '66 to begin publicizing the intended monument in order to begin fundraising purposes in the interim. Commissioner Ziese moves to table the motion; seconded by Commissioner Powers.

Communication and Update from the MVC:

Commissioner Powers shared a promotional brochure for the 10th Anniversary Vets Stand Down event to be held Friday, September 4, 2015, 8:00 am-3:00 pm at the Veterans Memorial Stadium. MVC will be addressing the open position on the Council with Mr. Bruner's passing at their upcoming meeting on August 12, 2015. A discussion ensues about a gift being presented the Bruner family on behalf of the VMC and an open monetary collection was compiled on the spot. Chairwoman Arens will present a selected gift to the family.

Public Comment:

- Chuck Elias introduces himself as the current Executive Director and Treasurer of the Iowa Veterans Welcome Center located on the Mezzanine level of the VMB. Mr. Elias offered his complaints in regards to receiving building access and his frustrations with E.D. Jager. Chairman Grant will meet with the current IVWC Board Chairman Steve Rathje in the near future. It is clarified that Mr. Elias may continue to work in the IVWC space until further notice.
- Mike Chismar with the American Legion Baseball in cooperation of the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States and the Japanese Government have invited a group of Japanese youth

baseball players to play our senior High School students in a benefit game at VMS on August 13, 2015, at 6:30 pm and invites all to attend.

Commissioner Delfs made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:21 PM; seconded by Commissioner Ziese. The motion carried with no objections.

Respectfully submitted,

Nikee Woods, Admin. Assistant

CHAIRMAN _____ Date

VICE CHAIRMAN _____ Date