

VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMISSION

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

September 14, 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
Excused:	Hattie Holmes	Nikee Woods, Admin. Asst.
Guests:	Mike Chismar Tony Hlas	Chuck Elias Cheryl King

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

Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes:

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

Financials:

Commissioner Powers asked for clarification of the August billing of Alliant. It was explained that the cost is due to the Alliant Demand Charge. Commissioner Ziese asks for explanation to how the VMB staff controls the heating and air conditioning system. E.D. informs the VMC of the Building Automation System software designed by Halverson Trane along with the VAVs (similar to a thermostat) throughout the building. To have continued upkeep it would take a service agreement with Halverson-Trane. The City's Facilities Manager has had continued access to the BAS as well and has assisted in troubleshooting as needed in the past. With the F.M.'s retirement nearing, we are in a flux until we know if that task will be acquired by his replacement or if all City buildings will be directed to contract with Halverson Trane. Commissioner Delfs asks if the VMC should anticipate the Hawkeye Fire & Safety charges on a regular basis, with E.D. clarifying it would not be. Commissioner Ziese 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 shares that the Vets Intern, Lindsey, has returned from her summer of studying abroad. A.D. plans to continue meeting weekly with Lindsey and maintaining the continued plan of A.D. focusing on curatorial and Lindsey to carry on with collections. A.D. discusses the procurement of a WAC uniform which brought on the purchase of a female mannequin to display in the exhibits. A.D. also tells of the Vietnam booby trap brought in by a soldier for display to the public. E.D. reads from The Gazette, a published letter to the editor praising A.D. and her work on the exhibits from a Cedar Rapids resident.

Communication and Update from the MVC:

Cheryl King reports the recent elections of the MVC held on September 9th, 2015.

Positions elected:

- President-John Powers
- First Vice President-Howard Purdy
- Secretary and Treasurer-Cheryl King.

MVC is beginning to work on the Veterans Day Program to be held in the Coliseum on November 11, 2015 at 11:00 am. Guest speakers have been contacted with a backup plan in place. The Jefferson High School Show Choir will be singing again this year with the Veterans Band present as well. The MVC is also accepting nominations for Veteran of the Year until October 14, 2015. The VMC will assist in the amplification for the Veterans Day event as well as cross promotion.

Formal Policy for donation of space to non-profit Veteran Organizations of the VMB:

Moving forward, the VMC wishes to develop a formal policy for current and future Veterans Organizations tenants of the VMB. Commissioner Ziese and Commissioner Delfs will work with Chairman Grant and the City of Cedar Rapids' Attorney. Councilman Olson also volunteers to contribute his knowledge of his similar experience as needed. Commissioner Ziese offers to procure sample leases from the Pentagon. Chairman Grant will use the City of Cedar Rapids lease as a template along with other requirements to be determined. Chairman Grant clarifies the groups that use meeting space vs occupied daily space will most likely not be required to be involved in the developing full formal policy, however, nothing has been officially decided. Policies will be brought back to the VMC for final approval.

Update and discussion of future and ongoing maintenance need of the VMB:

Chairman Grant is looking for a volunteer to begin working on a capital improvement plan for the VMB. This volunteer would work on evaluating needs, processes needed to repair and update, and then outlining in a plan for 5, 10 and 15 years. Commissioner Power is assigned and Commissioner Arens volunteers her assistance in this matter.

Public Comment:

- Commissioner Powers asked that Chairman Grant reiterate the last known discussion with Bob Feiereisen's request for a pellet shooting range space in VMB. Chairman Grant's understands that no new information has been brought to VMC from Mr. Feiereisen. E.D. had previously requested written documentation from both the American Legion #727 as well as the CRPD with their approval before proceeding any further with Mr. Feiereisen's request. E.D. has spoken with the Linn County Sheriff Department and learned of the former National Guard Armory already having open space designated to be a shooting range and suggests Mr. Feiereisen reach out to them. Chairman Grant asks to place this topic on the October 2015 Monthly VMC agenda to be voted on.
- Mike Chismar shares that all are cordially invited to attend a dedication to a replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall to occur at Mt. Mercy University on Thursday, September 17, 2015 at 4:00 pm.
- Cheryl King informs the VMC of the Eastern Iowa Honor Flight returning to the EIAA at 10:30 pm on September 15 and invites all to join in welcoming them back.

Commissioner Powers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:04 PM; seconded by Commissioner Delfs. The motion carried with no objections.

Respectfully submitted,

Nikee Woods, Admin. Assistant

CHAIRMAN _____ Date

VICE CHAIRMAN _____ Date