

**VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES FROM AUGUST 20, 2010**

The following are Minutes from the second meeting of the Veterans Memorial Committee held in the Mayor's Conference Room at City Hall on Friday, August 20, 2010 at 7:30 am

Volunteers in attendance:

Chairman Mike Goergen, Frank Cardarelle, Jason Christiaansen, Bob Kojetin, Herbert Lefler, John Lonsbury, Robert Reed, Marshall Schwartz

Volunteers unable to attend:

Barbara Bender, Bob Benson, Justin Kieffer

Staff in attendance:

John Keprios, Edina Park and Recreation Department Director
Janet Canton, Edina Park and Recreation Office Coordinator

I. APPROVAL OF THE JULY 23, 2010 MINUTES

John Lonsbury MOVED TO APPROVE THE JULY 23, 2010 VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMITTEE MINUTES. Herbert Lefler SECONDED THE MOTION. MINUTES APPROVED.

II. SITE SELECTION

Mr. Goergen commented that he hopes everyone had a chance to look at the four sites that met the criteria that were discussed at the last meeting: Arneson Acres, Centennial Lakes, Utley Park and Williams Park. He explained that after everyone has shared their opinions both pro and con they will take a vote based on a number system where each park will be ranked 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th.

Mr. Lefler indicated that he thinks Utley Park is more in the center of things with the Fourth of July Parade, etc. He stated that Centennial Lakes has a much higher visibility in terms of day to day. He noted that Arneson Acres is more relaxing and sort of has the atmosphere that the Vietnam Memorial in Washington has. He also thinks Arneson Acres is a quieter park and would be the place to do something like this.

Mr. Kojetin stated that Arneson Acres is a passive park with no scheduled activities and is a quiet park. In addition, it has the historical museum which is a benefit. He pointed out what he thinks they really need to look at is what will these areas look like 100 years from now because this is going to be forever and where is the ideal spot for that goal. He thinks Arneson Acres is the ideal place for that to happen. He stated that Centennial Lakes is an active area and is close to residential areas, therefore it's not a real quiet place. Mr. Kojetin stated that he thinks Utley Park, which currently has a memorial that has been there for 60 years, is an ideal place. It's small so he doesn't think anything else would ever be put there as well as there are trees and a restroom facility. He explained that he had originally thought of Williams Park because it was named after a WWII Edina Veteran, although it's really not an ideal place. He added that he also thinks Utley Park is more attractive and has more visibility than Arneson Acres. Mr.

Kojetin stressed that they really need to think about what's going to happen in 50 years, what if they want to expand the memorial, where would they expand it at Utley Park.

Mr. Cardarelle indicated that Utley Park has approximately four acres with a long area of creek to use as serenity. He noted that he doesn't think Williams Park has near the suitable area. He noted that he agrees with Mr. Kojetin that Centennial Lakes is going to lose its significance being in such a commercial area. He commented that he doesn't think Arneson Acres has all of the criteria because it doesn't have the visibility. In addition, it's also lacking the already existing large trees and creek that Utley Park has. He indicated that he doesn't see Utley Park changing much in the next 100 years especially because of the creek. Also, if they were to want to expand the memorial they could take out the tennis courts and basketball courts.

Mr. Reed stated that Utley Park had been his number one choice until he really looked at Arneson Acres. He pointed out that Arneson Acres is an open palette and there are a lot of sites that could be used for the memorial. It has a natural amphitheater type situation as well as restrooms and lots of parking. In addition with the historical museum there they could put up various displays plus have military records of people who served. He noted the negative is the visibility from the road as well as there are homes surrounding the park. Mr. Reed indicated that he thinks Utley Park is a good location and has the visibility but personally thinks parking is limited as well as there are some big trees that are not very good. He commented that he thinks they would have to relocate existing things such as the fire ring and gazebo in order to get the space, scope and size of the memorial. He agrees that Centennial Lakes already has a lot going on and that Williams Park is unacceptable due to its size and it's already the historic site of the Edina Mill.

Mr. Christiaansen noted that he has mixed feelings about Arneson Acres. He likes the available space but putting a memorial there it would seem like it's always in someone's backyard with all of the surrounding homes. He commented that pathways would also need to be put in which would be an additional expense. He stated that Utley Park is his first choice although it doesn't have as much flexibility as Arneson Acres. He noted that he also liked the connection to the Fourth of July Parade and thinks that somehow that could be integrated into the design as far as visibility or even have some type of physical connection where people can actually gather. Mr. Christiaansen indicated that he agrees Centennial Lakes is too commercial although it does have good visibility.

Mr. Lonsbury informed the committee that he approached each site from a land use perspective. He agrees Williams Park has already been committed to a historical part of Edina and is too small. He noted that Centennial Lakes doesn't seem appropriate to him for what it is they are trying to accomplish. He indicated that with Utley Park, depending on what is done, it could get lost. He pointed out that the Fourth of July Parade is new in his lifetime and there's no guarantee it will always be there. Also, if it is by the creek and depending on its size people are going to drive by and not even know it's there ten years from now. Therefore, they really need to think about where it should be located and how close it should be to 50th Street. He noted that he doesn't think it's an appropriate scale in size for what they are looking for although it certainly has some amenities. Mr. Lonsbury stated in regards to Arneson Acres there are possibilities however, it's one of Edina's untouched wonderful parks and to commit to build a memorial today will limit what they can do in the future such as adding soccer fields, baseball fields, etc. He stated that each park has its opportunities and its disadvantages.

Mr. Lonsbury stated that he was thinking what if they have a traditional memorial in terms of flag poles, emblems, granite, etc. and in addition see if they could use a part of the Historical Society at Arneson Acres where they could keep names, history, memorabilia, etc., and that way there can be one area that's quiet and reflective as well as have a resource center.

Mr. Schwartz indicated that he won't go over Williams Park or Centennial Lakes because he agrees with what everyone has said. He noted that with regards to Arneson Acres they would have to spend a lot of money to create an environment that already exists at Utley Park with the creek, trees, etc. He noted he does like the idea of having a flag with a light on it. He added that they probably couldn't do that at Arneson Acres because of all the homes surrounding it. He commented that as far as security they could put monitors, etc. at Arneson Acres because of the building as well as there are restrooms. He noted that parking is close by but depending where the memorial would be placed it could be quite a walk for the older veterans to get to. Williams Park has the dignity but is too small whereas Utley Park has the water, dignity, etc., but also seems to fit the character and personality of what it is they are looking for.

Mr. Goergen indicated that he is torn between Arneson Acres and Utley Park. Williams Park is too small and he agrees that Centennial Lakes is too busy and commercialized. He noted that Arneson Acres has a lot of positives but one negative is visibility where he feels there is much more visibility at Utley Park. In addition, he likes the serene space for reflection especially if it's situated correctly with the creek in the background. Also there is parking available and if more is needed there is another parking lot across the street at Wooddale Park. He noted that he thinks Utley Park has a better combination of the elements they established, with Arneson Acres being a close second.

Mr. Keprios stated that it's pretty clear they are down to two choices: Arneson Acres and Utley Park. He indicated that he likes Mr. Lonsbury's idea of having some type of exhibit or showcase at the Historical Society that honors the veterans and keeps a computer file to keep all the data on the veterans from Edina.

The vote was taken:

Arneson Acres =	1 st Place (1 vote); 2 nd Place (6 votes)
Centennial Lakes =	3 rd Place (5 votes); 4 th Place (3 votes)
Utley Park =	1 st Place (7 votes); 2 nd Place (1 vote)
Williams Park =	3 rd Place (3 votes); 4 th Place (5 votes)

Utley Park was voted as the location for the Veteran's Memorial.

Mr. Cardarelle indicated that he will take topography of the park so that the committee can see the location of the trees, buildings, parking lot, etc.

Mr. Cardarelle commented as Mr. Lonsbury stated he thinks the committee should also keep in mind the Historical Society as a secondary place to keep records. Mr. Lonsbury stated that another thought he had was that could also be a place where they can list their recognition of donors so that they do not have corporate logos and donors names on the actual memorial, keep it simple.

Mr. Lonsbury asked Mr. Keprios if Mr. Cardarelle is going to go out and do topography do they need to have a formal recommendation to the Park Board and then have that run by the City

Council. Mr. Keprios replied that it is his intent to have the committee's recommendation on the September 14th Park Board agenda for two things. First to go forward with the project and have it located in Utley Park and secondly to approve \$30,000 in the 2011 Capital Improvement Plan.

John Lonsbury MOVED THAT THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO THE PARK BOARD TO APPROVE UTLEY PARK AS THE LOCATION FOR THE VETERANS MEMORIAL AND APPROVE \$30,000 IN THE 2011 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN.

Mr. Keprios pointed out that the \$30,000 is to be used for whatever soft costs are incurred. If there is money left over it will go towards construction, engineering, etc. The purpose of this money is to get the project off the ground so that they don't have to struggle with fundraising right way. It will be a jump start mainly to be used for the architect.

Herbert Lefler SECONDED THE MOTION.

Mr. Schwartz informed the committee that he spoke with Kevin Rofidal, who was on the Eden Prairie Veterans Committee, and asked him if he could have done something different what would it be. Mr. Rofidal informed him that he would have brought the artist in first because by that time they had the architect and therefore that eliminated some wonderful ideas that the artist may have had.

Mr. Lonsbury pointed out that before they get too involved with artists and architects they need to make sure the City Council approves the site. He noted that he doesn't anticipate a great deal of opposition although he does think there will be some concerned neighbors from the Wooddale area. Therefore he thinks it's very important to make sure that they have City Council support and approval of the site before they get too far into architects, artists, etc. Mr. Keprios stated that the Park Board may direct him to send out notices to everyone within 1,000 feet of the park and invite them to the October meeting to have them give input and then make a final recommendation to the City Council.

Mr. Lefler noted that he read an article regarding Target Field and it stated that the reasons it took so long to develop and why there were so many problems is because they focused on the process and financing. What they should have had was a picture to show the public what it was they had in mind or at least the thought and it probably would have gone smoother. He noted that if they had some sort of artist rendering to show the public it may have been more reassuring to the people that what it is they are doing will be tasteful, etc. Mr. Keprios explained that it's a cart and horse thing. He has to present this in his Capital Plan on September 14th and it will be in competition with all of the other things on the Park and Recreation plate that compete for capital dollars so he needs to have that piece on the agenda. He agrees when they get to the public hearing part they will need to have a picture or rendering so people will have a better idea of what is being proposed. However, they can't get to that point until they have the money to draft a concept drawing.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. **PERMANENT LISTING OF KILLED IN ACTION (KIA'S)**

It was noted that Mr. Schwartz is chairing the subcommittee on the research for the KIA and was asked to come up with a formal recommendation of the criteria to propose to the committee to discuss what the scope is in recognizing those veterans KIA (see attached).

Mr. Schwartz pointed out that he would like to make one change. In the appendix he would like to add under exceptional situations Edina city employees, teachers, police officers, firemen, etc. Include anyone who is working for the city but does not live in the city and is currently in the Armed Forces.

Mr. Keprios stated that he thinks they are assuming everyone is in agreement that they are going to put forever names etched in granite for the KIA's. He noted that before they get into details maybe they should first discuss if that is indeed what the committee wants to do.

Mr. Reed indicated that he would vote against having names engraved in the memorial. He added that when he reviewed the previous meetings minutes General Schulstad mentioned repeatedly he would recommend not having names and kept stressing to keep it simple. Mr. Reed stated that he thinks it would make a better situation to have those names available at the Historical Society or someplace else as opposed to etching them in stone. Mr. Goergen noted that his observation was he believes General Schulstad made those statements in context of the memorial at the TCF Stadium.

Mr. Lefler suggested that one of the criteria be that it's the veteran's residence when he or she entered the military service until the time of death. He noted this may help with some problems in determining residents.

Mr. Lonsbury asked are they honoring those who died while they were serving in the armed forces or are they honoring all veterans and their families who served in the armed forces. Mr. Goergen replied his impression is they are doing both. He noted he envisions one plaque naming KIA and a second one having a general statement honoring everyone who has served during war time and peace time. Mr. Lonsbury stated he thinks it's an important question. He explained that when he went to the Eden Prairie memorial he was very moved; however, as soon as he started looking at the names that were engraved it made it real and at that point he lost everybody but the people who died. He commented that if it's going to be about those who have served and not just those who died they will get a lot more widespread support, more funding, etc. He stated that if they end up honoring however many people the research comes up with he feels the memorial becomes more about them and not about the veterans in general. Mr. Lonsbury commented that he doesn't think they can do both because the focus is going to shift to the people who died. It's something they should talk about because it does change the character and nature of the memorial as soon as names are engraved.

Mr. Schwartz indicated that he is putting his recommendation out for approval and that's why he developed the criteria. He noted if someone argues that someone who lived in Edina a little while does not belong on the memorial is it really that bad if the person is listed on two memorials, the person did die for his country. He stated that he doesn't think it has to be an either or, they can develop the memorial so that it doesn't give the feeling that Mr. Lonsbury is talking about.

Mr. Goergen pointed out that they are going to have some individual situations that might have to be dealt with on a case by case basis. He noted that when he entered the military there was a place to indicate your home of record and perhaps that should be the basis and starting point for the research. Mr. Lefler stated that he is more comfortable using the Defense Department's home of record as the determining factor if they are going to list KIA because they would be more objective.

Mr. Kojetin indicated that he thinks they should include everyone in the memorial and not single out one group from another. He agrees that all of the research that is done can be put in the museum at the Historical Society.

Mr. Goergen asked why can't they do both. He noted that if it's done correctly it should be both all inclusive of anyone who served as well as single out those who made the ultimate sacrifice. He commented his personal observation is that is the basis of a veteran's memorial to honor those whose lives ended too soon.

It was asked why the research starts with 1888 to which Mr. Schwartz replied because that is when Edina became a community. Mr. Schwartz stated if the committee thinks they need to start before 1888 he can do that. Mr. Schwartz commented that his point was to try to find the things and then validate them through any kind of government document.

Mr. Cardarelle suggested they ask the artist or whoever to find a way to design the granite to include both ways. He noted that he thinks all of the veterans should be honored as well as all of those killed in action.

Mr. Goergen explained that right now they are at this stage so that Mr. Schwartz can start on his research. Mr. Keprios commented that he is hoping one way or another the KIA will be memorialized somewhere permanently whether it's at the Historical Society or on this memorial. He noted that he would like it in writing so there is no gray area for future park directors to know who does and who does not deserve to be forever put on granite or at the Historical Society. Mr. Keprios pointed out that General Schulstad did say if they do write names to not put them in alphabetical order so that any forgotten names can always be added and it won't look out of place.

Mr. Goergen informed the Park Board that Mr. Schwartz is going to have a year or more of research before anything is ever engraved. He noted that he is hoping all of the research will go to the Historical Society as a basis for a more permanent record with further details on the individuals. He commented that all he would like to see listed on the memorial is: name, rank, branch of service and which war.

Mr. Lefler made a suggestion that since everyone agrees research should be done to at least look up names at this point.

Herbert Lefler MOVED TO RECOMMEND THAT THE COMMITTEE ADOPT THE CRITERIA WITH THE CHANGE THAT RESIDENCY BE DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OR AS LISTED BY THE SERVICE MEMBER. Bob Kojetin SECONDED THE MOTION.

Mr. Keprios asked what a Merchant Marine is. Mr. Schwartz replied that they were specific to WWII and were the people that ran the convoys. They took terrible casualties and were very much in harm's way. He commented that they have a strong advocacy to which some memorials have had bad publicity as a result of not including them. The Merchant Marines were never considered part of the armed forces. Mr. Schwartz explained he listed them because they were included in the document that Mr. Keprios sent to the Park Board. He noted that it is a debatable issue and that he will go with whatever the committee wants to do. Mr. Reed pointed out that what goes along with that is they need to consider the WASP (Women Air Force Service Pilots) who worked for a period of time during WWII. He noted they did the same thing and were never considered part of the armed forces. Mr. Keprios asked if the Merchant Marines are recognized in other memorials to which it was noted typically not and that there have been separate memorials for the Merchant Marines.

Mr. Lonsbury suggested that Mr. Schwartz do his research with the criteria that if he finds a Merchant Marine or WASP that was killed during WWII to bring it to the committee and they can change the criteria if that's what they decide to do. He stated that he would also like to see it pushed back from 1888 just in case Mr. Schwartz is able to find someone from the Edina area prior to that time. Mr. Keprios stated to Mr. Lonsbury that he could probably offer that as a friendly amendment to be voted on. Mr. Lefler stated that would be fine.

Mr. Goergen explained that procedurally they are really not approving every point Mr. Schwartz listed but rather are making their own starting point for Mr. Schwartz to proceed. Mr. Keprios stated that they may want to do this by consensus then because when they are voting on formal criteria the next park director is going to have to live by that. He commented that the committee may find that after Mr. Schwarz does his research they may want to change the criteria but for now have Mr. Schwartz start his research because we know we will be using names it's just a matter of where they will be located. He commented that if they have the consensus that there needs to be a home of record then later go back and set the criteria and have Mr. Schwartz start his research going back as far as he can.

Mr. Schwartz indicated that if the issue comes up and if anyone were to ask this at a City Council meeting or something that the committee does have the Merchant Marines and WASP in their scope while they are doing their research. He commented that should help in case they encounter issues like Eden Prairie had with the Merchant Marines not being included in their memorial.

It was noted there is a motion on the table with a friendly amendment that's been seconded that reads: AT THIS TIME THE CRITERIA USED IN TERMS OF CHECKING RECORDS IS THAT HOME OF RECORD SHOULD BE THE BASIS WITH THE AMENDMENT STATING THAT RESEARCH WILL GO BACK PRIOR TO 1888.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. OTHER

- A. Fundraising Committee – It was noted that Barb Bender and Bob Kojetin have volunteered to be the co-chairs for the Fundraising Committee. Mr. Kojetin indicated that he has the list of donors who donated money to the 1988 Edina Centennial. He noted that in 1988 \$104,000 was donated to the museum. He stated that this can be a starting point and they could go to some of the same corporations and companies. He added that the majority of the donations were \$2,000 and the biggest was \$25,000.

- B. Committee Members - Mr. Keprios informed the committee that due to health problems Jack Abrahamson has had to pull out of the committee. He noted that Bob Benson is now a formal member of the committee and he will be co-chairing the Research Committee along with Mr. Schwartz.

MEETING ADJOURNED