

**VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES FROM MARCH 18, 2011**

The following are Minutes from the Veterans Memorial Committee held in the Mayor's Conference Room at City Hall on Friday, March 18, 2011 at 7:30 am

Volunteers in attendance:

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

Volunteers unable to attend:

Barbara Bender, Herb Lefler, Bob Benson

Staff in attendance:

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

I. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 11, 2011 MINUTES

Robert Reed MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 11, 2011 VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMITTEE MINUTES. Frank Cardarelle SECONDED THE MOTION. MINUTES APPROVED.

II. FLAGS

- A. Location of Flags – Mr. Goergen informed the committee that in looking back at the old minutes they need to be clear and a little more specific on some of the elements before next month's meeting with the architects. He noted that the issue with the flags is both the location as well as some clarity on the POW/MIA flag. He indicated as far as location staff doesn't feel strongly one way or the other although he has some preference to keep all of the amenities as part of the memorial.

Mr. Reed pointed out to the committee that he didn't realize there is a federal flag code from 1923 that states if the American flag is flown with other flags, not of other nations, the American flag should always be in the center and be higher than any other flag. Mr. Reed indicated as far as the POW/MIA flag in the federal flag code it actually gives days that the POW/MIA flag is recognized and flown and those days are: Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Fourth of July, National POW/MIA Recognition Day and Veteran's Day. He noted that after last month's discussion on the POW/MIA Flag he does think it's a meaningful flag, it is recognized and there isn't anything that says it doesn't have to be flown.

Mr. Reed stated that for them to get into a location at this point without seeing the designer's ideas he thinks would be a little bit premature because the flag poles are an integral part of the overall design. He noted that he would like to see what the ideas are before they decide on the exact location. He commented that another point, which he stated last month, is if it is put right next to the street it might not be an integral part of

the design and when you drive right by it you won't be able to see it unless you were in a convertible.

Mr. Kojetin commented that in reading last month's minutes it talked about the flag and monument that is currently there in the corner. He noted maybe that could be moved closer to the street or stay in the corner. Mr. Goergen replied that they did not discuss that in great length but kind of left it open. They did discuss using it not as the actual memorial but maybe as an entrance.

Mr. Cardarelle stated that he thinks it's premature to say where they want the flag poles when they don't even know what the plan is going to be yet. Mr. Christiaansen replied that the architects will give them options and, if not, they could ask them for options.

Mr. Goergen stated that to clarify for official action that they are set on three flags, the American flag being larger and higher (or whatever the protocol is), have it be lit so that it can be flown 24/7, and have a mechanical device so that an employee will not need to raise and lower it every day. Mr. Keprios stated to follow protocol the American flag will be in the center and is going to be the highest along with the POW/MIA flag and the City of Edina flag.

Mr. Lonsbury pointed out that there are two different items on the agenda, one is location. Mr. Keprios replied it's his understanding that has been tabled. Mr. Lonsbury stated there should be a formal motion. John Lonsbury **MOVED TO TABLE THE LOCATION OF THE FLAGS UNTIL AFTER ARCHITECTS PRESENT THEIR INITIAL PLAN.** Bob Kojetin **SECONDED THE MOTION.**

Mr. Goergen stated based on the fact their memorial is going to be relatively smaller than the other memorials they have seen that to take three flags away from the memorial itself he thinks would leave the memorial lacking. He thinks if you separate it and say here are the flags and here is the memorial focal point that the emphasis will kind of be in two places. He noted that he does agree to table it and see what the architects come up with. **MOTION CARRIED TO TABLE THE LOCATION.**

Mr. Goergen stated that they need to get the particulars on the three flags they discussed, the American flag being higher with a light and some kind of mechanical device; does he hear that motion. Frank Cardarelle **MOVED;** Marshall Schwartz **SECONDED.**

Mr. Cardarelle stated that he thought if they wanted they could put up other flags as well and not just the City of Edina flag. Mr. Keprios stated that the motion that was passed back in September indicated that two would be revolving so maybe what they are saying is the POW/MIA and the American flag would always be there but that the third could be revolving. Mr. Kojetin commented that he thinks they can also put two flags on one pole.

Mr. Lonsbury asked is the purpose of bringing this up again to discuss making the POW/MIA Flag a permanent part of the display. He noted that the motion they passed before gave them flexibility to fly what they wanted but now they would like to mandate that it's flown every day. He stated if that's the purpose then make that motion and, if not, then why are they doing this. Mr. Schwartz replied if that's the case then he would like to provide a little background. He stated there were at least two people from Edina who died as POWs. In addition, there were POWs who were able to come back. He indicated that it's not just a concept, it's a part of our community and a part of our history that will go into the memorial to have a flag like that.

Mr. Goergen stated that he agrees the POW/MIA flag should be permanently flown and that the third flag would be the City of Edina flown on a daily basis unless there was a reason to fly the state flag or the United Nations flag.

Mr. Keprios indicated the reason this was put on the agenda was because there seemed to be some opposition to the POW/MIA flag because the committee has previously had mixed views about the issue so he believes they need some closure to that. Mr. Goergen stated that he guesses he made the motion from the chair saying that we agreed on the three flags, the American flag being larger taller than the other two, plus the light on the American flag and mechanical devices. After further clarification, Frank Cardarelle MOVED TO APPROVE THREE FLAGS, ONE BEING THE AMERICAN FLAG, ONE BEING THE POW FLAG AND THE THIRD WOULD BE A ROTATING FLAG, LIGHTS WOULD BE INCLUDED AND A MECHANICAL DEVICE TO RAISE AND LOWER THE FLAGS. Marshall Schwartz SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Kojetin suggested that since Mr. Schwartz has been doing a lot of investigating and has a lot of information perhaps he should give his report at the start of the meetings.

III. SEATING

- A. Wood vs. Granite/Stone – Mr. Goergen stated they need to clarify what kind of a permanent seating they want for private reflection. He noted they need to use the most durable and maintenance friendly material possible. Mr. Kojetin replied that it has to be stone or granite; it can't be wood because they would go through too many of them and he is sure some would end up in the creek like they do at Centennial Lakes. He stated that granite will last forever, where with wood you will have to keep replacing them.

Mr. Reed indicated that at one of their presentations one of the ideas was to incorporate some seating on raised planters so that it was part of the memorial. He noted that it could actually serve two purposes; when they have a celebration or a service people could use that as seating and it would go along with some raised planters for their flowers or foliage, etc. Mr. Reed pointed out that granite is not the greatest seating surface, it's cold and tough; however, no one would be able to throw it around. He indicated that maybe they could also look at some recycled plastic benches that a

Minnesota company owns and since they are close by maybe they could even get a deal on them. He noted that they do make some very good looking things and they are very weather proof and much better than wood.

Mr. Cardarelle stated that he would like to see a plan before they try to nail down that they are going to use a certain type of bench. Mr. Lonsbury noted that he would absolutely agree. Mr. Goergen stated that he doesn't think the architect is going to necessarily come up with the material that is one item they didn't give them any direction on and that he thinks that's the purpose of this. Mr. Lonsbury stated that he believes they did state previously that they would like durable, maintenance friendly materials throughout the memorial and when the architect comes back with the plan they will have material recommendations. Mr. Christiaansen commented that the architect will probably come back with a palate of different choices to look at. Frank Cardarelle MOVED TO TABLE THIS UNTIL THEY SEE THE PLAN. John Lonsbury SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. SCULPTURE FOCAL PIECE

- A. Human Figure or Symbol – Mr. Goergen passed around to the committee a packet of photographs showing all different kinds of veteran's memorials. He noted that the first issue is do they want a human figure or do they want a symbolic figure and from there they can get into more specifics. Mr. Christiaansen asked if they have any type of access to any type of military artifact that could be put in the memorial, if anyone would be interested in doing something like that.

Mr. Schwartz stated that a lot of the photographs are very nice but noted that one in five of those killed from Edina were killed in the air and what he is looking at is clearly an infantry man with a particular weapon and is dated to a particular war. He indicated if they have a symbol then everyone is included and there are no omissions plus they do not know what's going to happen in 50 years. Mr. Kieffer informed the committee that the sculpture of the boots, helmet & gun is now how they honor a fallen soldier; air force, army, navy, etc. He noted if they are looking at past, present and future, it's mainly the present and the future because everyone is a considered a ground soldier. Mr. Reed replied he doesn't agree with that to which Mr. Kieffer responded he was saying that's the way it is that is how everyone is treated and that is how you honor the fallen soldiers. Mr. Goergen indicated that he agrees with what Mr. Kieffer is saying, that is the universal symbol although he has seen it for pilots with a helmet.

Mr. Kojetin stated that a symbol like that does not symbolize the people that did the work back in the United States. He noted that he likes the symbol of the fallen soldier but also likes the eagle which symbolized everyone and not just the military. He indicated that to him this is going to be one of the toughest decisions they will have to make, are they going to symbolize the people on the home front or people that were serving.

Mr. Keprios commented that Mr. Kost talked about a star and asked the committee about their thoughts. Mr. Schwartz replied that he was hoping for each deceased person there would be a star. He indicated that they started with a pentagon which has five points on it for each of the five services, but that a star also has five points and the stars in the flag are a patriotic symbol. He noted the shape would take form on the ground or something, but not the central thing. Mr. Reed stated that he thinks a stylized star could be part of the focal point. He indicated that he is against having a statue because it dates it and limits it mostly to ground infantry type people. He noted with a stylized star, flag, eagle, etc., there are lots of other representational things they could go with so he thinks the whole concept could be blending the five services; there are a lot of ideas. Mr. Schwartz added there are more and more women who are serving and if they gear it toward a particular sex then they are kind of putting a barrier up for what's going forward, a symbol is much more universal and timeless.

Mr. Lonsbury indicated that his opinion is the more abstract the better and really is more patriotic because it's honoring the service and not the combat or the war. He is not in favor of guns, tanks, etc. He noted that another thought he had, and can think of a dozen reasons why not to do this, maybe the focal point doesn't have to be in a sculpture it could be a water feature or a garden. He stated that he is just trying to think outside of the box, just a different idea than trying to create some sculpture, it could be a different kind of art.

Mr. Cardarelle stated that his thought was the world, he likes the eagle on the world or the flag on the world because they have served all over the world plus here. He indicated he was hoping they would get something that took care of everybody at home and all over the world where we served.

Mr. Christiaansen pointed out that another option one of the presenters made was a sculpture flame out of metal which he thought was an interesting idea that they hadn't considered.

Mr. Goergen stated that he agrees with what everyone is saying and is of the opinion that the committee is veering away from the human figure. He noted that his personal observation for symbols is that the eagle is universal. He informed the committee that one that caught his eyes was a piece of granite that had the American flag carved in it. He noted that gave him the idea that if they chose a symbol and mounted it, whatever the idea was, on a piece of granite with a flag carved into it would be a nice combination.

Mr. Kojetin commented that maybe they should give these minutes to the artist that has all of their ideas and let the artist give his thoughts. Mr. Goergen responded that he thinks they need to formally determine whether to have a human figure or something symbolic and then go from there.

Mr. Kieffer commented that they are almost back to the point with the flags where they almost have to see what they come up with. He noted they can give the artist a general

idea or some criteria such as they would like a universal symbol or universal statue but he doesn't think they should nail themselves down right now. He indicated that he thinks they are going to have to wait and see what kind of space they come up with.

Mr. Lonsbury stated that he thinks it's very healthy having the conversation about what they are thinking in terms of abstract or a figure. He noted that it's his expectation that the architects are going to have some input which he would like to hear what they think in terms of material, scale, etc. Mr. Lonsbury indicated that he is assuming after they go down the road a little further they are going to have to commission an artist which would be different from the architect. He stated that in order to pick an artist they need to figure out which medium they are working in not only are they deciding what kind of sculpture they want but what medium. He commented that he is thinking until they get the plans back next month it's hard to try to move this further to an artist because they don't know what size, scale, medium and all the rest of it is.

Mr. Schwartz informed the committee that he asked Kevin Rofidal, a member on Eden Prairie's Veteran's Committee, if there was one thing they could do differently what would it be; he stated he would have brought in the artist earlier. He explained that by the time they got to the artist that architect had already made so many decisions that it confined the artist's ability. If they had the artist's concept first then they could have the architect build around it. Mr. Schwartz asked if the architect is going to bring in their own artist to which Mr. Keprios replied he envisions the committee hiring an artist with the help of the Edina Public Art Committee. Mr. Goergen stated that may be hard to do without knowing what kind of symbol they favor because an artist might not be able to create that or work in that medium.

Mr. Reed pointed out to the committee that certain artists work with certain mediums and certain artists are well known for their figure representation as opposed to an abstract or a symbol. It is important to know what artist is best at those particular things. He also noted that he would not recommend bronze because it is too costly to maintain. His recommendation would be more in stone, so right there are only a few artists that work in stone because it's a whole different process. Mr. Reed stated that he thinks they could vote on some things now such as should it be a human figure or other representation and then the next step before they do any real deciding is get someone from the Public Art Committee to give us their feedback on what we've got locally and maybe they would know who does work with stone.

Mr. Goergen indicated that his take on the architect was because they hadn't determined what the focal piece was going to be that they will be coming back with something very generic. He noted that he thinks they will say here is the place on the memorial plan for the piece of art without putting a specific thing there.

Mr. Christiaansen stated that they said they wanted a focal point so that is going to lead it to have some type of central point rather than sort of a peripheral type of colonnade or something like that around it. He stated that he thinks that is sort of what they directed the architects to do but did not give them any more direction than that. He

stated that he thinks the architect will give them a size at some point and then the artist will put that in.

Mr. Kojetin suggested having someone from the Public Art Committee attend their next meeting. Mr. Keprios replied that he has made it very clear to the Public Art Committee that it is going to be the Veterans Committee's decision. He noted that what the Public Art Committee will bring to the table is their experience, their background, and help with the type of process they decide to use to hire an artist. Mr. Kojetin stated that he wonders if they should come to the next meeting so they can see where the committee is at and the committee can see where the Public Art Committee is at and then they can go out and hire an artist. Mr. Keprios stated that the Public Art Committee is going to ask the committee questions such as what do you have in mind and that's why he thought this would be a healthy discussion to try to narrow the focus a little bit: What is going to fit the character of the memorial; what do you want it to represent; do you want it to have dignity and respect to kind of tell the story past, present, future; what kind of a feel should it have more so than what it is. Mr. Keprios indicated that he really appreciates the comments about not celebrating the conflict and war itself but that the service and sacrifice is what it's about. He noted that one thing would steer the committee away from is having something that kids would end up playing on.

Mr. Cardarelle stated that he would like for it to be a symbol somehow made with some type of granite or permanent material, however the artist can put something together. Mr. Lonsbury indicated that perhaps they don't need a motion because he thinks their minutes are pretty sufficient in terms of the conversation and the Public Art Committee can read the minutes. Mr. Goergen stated that he thinks they should vote on a formal motion but should clarify if they want a human figure or a symbolic one.

Mr. Lonsbury MOVED THAT THEY HAVE A SYMBOLIC FOCAL POINT PIECE OF ART AND THE MATERIALS SHOULD BE DURABLE AND LOW MAINTENANCE. Justin Kieffer SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Keprios noted that he will invite the Public Art Committee to their next meeting. Mr. Goergen commented that part of this is because they want to keep to a timeline and have been told an artist can take up to a year. Mr. Keprios pointed out that they cannot make a contractual agreement with an artist until they have money in their pocket and so they've got to put together their fundraising plan and have it ready when they have materials to present to potential donors.

V. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

Mr. Keprios stated that aside from the three people that are not at this meeting would it be helpful to anyone who is here today to move the meetings to a different day or time. Mr. Goergen replied that the three people who are missing from today's meeting is because

they cannot fit it in their schedule for various reasons. It was decided to continue with the same meeting schedule.

Mr. Schwartz asked the committee that now that they are this far down the road is there any gap in knowledge or experience that we might want to add somebody to the committee such as artist or somebody's expertise that would be valuable going forward. Mr. Keprios informed the committee that there is a resident who did apply to be on the committee or serve on a sub-committee if needed and his interest is in fundraising. He stated that he thinks this person has contacts and has the passion for it and thinks whether he is a committee member or not they could use his help one way or another. Mr. Goergen indicated that Mr. Lefler has agreed after some review of what he could do as a judge and what he couldn't to chair the sub-committee on fundraising. He stated that they need to ask him by next month to put a plan together and then start the marketing part of fundraising such as preparing various letters to the various entities and individuals, etc. He noted that initially he thought they might let Mr. Lefler and this new person, Todd Tepple, get together and pick his brain and then kind of let Mr. Lefler decide if the knowledge he gave is a one-time thing or if he should become part of the committee.

Mr. Kojetin pointed out that Mr. Lonsbury is also involved in the marketing to which Mr. Goergen replied that Mr. Lonsbury is then going to aid Mr. Lefler and that sub-committee on fundraising, which includes Ms. Bender and Mr. Kojetin, to then try to put that plan into effect so it's going to be two pronged. The first is to formalize the plan and then second is to sit down with Mr. Keprios and Ms. Bennerottee, Communications Director, and start working on the mechanics of letter writing and other publicity that we need to present to the community. Mr. Keprios pointed out that they shouldn't forget about General Schulstad and to keep him in mind when the time is appropriate because he did indicate that he wants to stay involved and help the committee.

VI. STANDING COMMITTEES

- A. **Fundraising/Treasurer** – Mr. Goergen informed the committee that when he has been asked about fundraising the consistent line he gives is they are broaching that; however they want to have some architectural renderings to kick off the fundraising phase of it and the publicity regarding the fundraising. He noted that should be forthcoming within the month or two months maximum.
- B. **Research (KIAs)** – Mr. Goergen informed the committee that at some point in the near future they are going to have Mr. Schwartz give them an update because he has some questionable individuals on whether or not they should be included in their memorial honoring those who lost their lives.

Mr. Schwartz informed the committee that Marcie from the Historical Society is going to interview him for their newsletter. He stated right now he has found 32 or 33 people; however, there are still three that he needs information on and two that have to be tied more closely to Edina and one that he does not have a full date of birth. He noted that for all of the others he has all of the information. Mr. Schwarz noted that he is also

collecting a lot more information because he would like to put together a booklet for the Historical Society on these people and hopes to have pictures, maps, etc. He commented that he thinks this makes it a little more human because some of the stories he has come across are terrible. Mr. Schwartz also informed the committee that he found a new source at the Minnesota History Center. He discovered that they have microfiche and that in 1949 and 1950 the government gave a bonus to all WWII veterans and they had a separate thing for the survivors of people who were killed and has been able to find a lot of different documents. Mr. Schwartz stated again that these things belong in a book so that people can see more than just a name and a date of birth so as well as doing research he is gathering a lot of information. He noted that he also appreciates the help he has received from Mr. Kojetin and Mr. Cardarelle who have so much information on what has happened in the City of Edina.

Mr. Goergen stated that he would like to acknowledge what Mr. Schwartz has been doing and to the extremes he has gone from taking Hennepin County lists and trying to place them as residents of Edina.

Mr. Schwartz asked to say two things about what he found in his research that really strikes him; number one how young these people were; they were 19 and 20 years old when they died. He stated that the second thing is the high rate of death among people who were in the army air corps and the navy fliers and that one in four or one in five cadets was killed in training to be in the air corps. He pointed out that when you think about how many people were in the ground forces and what small numbers were in the air corps, the percentage, the attrition rate was so high and he had no idea. He stated that he now has a much bigger appreciation than he did going through the army air corps.

Mr. Kojetin informed the committee that one of the things they've been talking about on the Historical Society Board is that next year will be Edina's 125th anniversary and they have been discussing having some type of gathering on the Fourth of July in 2012. He commented that might be a nice time to have the Veteran's Memorial dedicated at the same time. However, that might be out of the picture because he doesn't think the memorial will be ready by then. He noted that he just wanted to give the committee a heads up that they have been discussing it.

Mr. Goergen indicated that when Mr. Schwartz was telling him about his research what he didn't realize was the vast number of losses especially in WWII. He noted that during WWII Edina's population was 5,800-5,900 people and when you look at the number who served and number killed those numbers are fantastic when you talk about service to your country from your community. He stated that Edina must have been totally mobilized. He noted they are going to acknowledge in one of their plaques not only the families but the community in very generic terms. He added that this community in WWII must have been totally focused on the war effort.

Mr. Schwartz informed the committee that in a conversation he had yesterday with Mr. Benson he made some really valid points. He stated that Mr. Benson said the people

who served in WWII or their parents are dying off and it's important that the new generation understand what this community did as a community. He indicated that Mr. Benson suggested under the authority of Park and Recreation that once this is done and a book has been put together for the history center that they consider doing to a community education thing for the schools. He noted that maybe they could take to these kids when they have history day so that they can grow up with a sense of pride in the community whether they grow up here or not. Mr. Schwartz stated that he thinks this would be a wonderful project and it would be something where they could put together all of the work that everyone is doing for this project and to keep it going. Mr. Cardarelle informed the committee that Mr. Kojetin and he talk to the schools about history every year and noted that they certainly could incorporate this when it's put together.

Mr. Schwartz pointed out that the majority of the people he found were killed in WWII but there were also three young people who died in the Vietnam War and two people from the Korean War. He noted that they cannot make this a WWII project. Everyone thanked Mr. Schwartz for the marvelous job he has done.

Mr. Reed asked, in talking about timelines, it's his understanding that for fundraising it's best to have some concepts but they are waiting on that and he sees fundraising being a key element as far as a timeline goes. Mr. Goergen noted that right now they cannot contractually retain an artist or construction firm.

Mr. Cardarelle indicated that he thinks the timeline is going to have to feature that this was done on the 125th anniversary of Edina but that it probably will not be completed until the following year. He stated that he thinks this should be included in their advertising and fundraising.

Mr. Goergen informed the committee that sometimes Mr. Keprios and he receive inquiries from outside groups who have an element that they would like to talk about and added that he handled three of them last month. He indicated that recently a merchant marine, who represents a merchant marine association, stated that he was aware that the emblem will consist of the five military services and will not include the Merchant Marines. He noted that this person was very adamant about the need to include the Merchant Marine; however he did inform this person that the topic has been discussed and it's the committee's opinion that except for WWII when they were considered part of the navy they have not been considered military. Mr. Goergen stated that this person told him that they may be hearing from some of the other members but that he thinks he did appease him by saying that if need be they would revisit the issue.

Mr. Goergen noted that another person stated to him that he thought the whole memorial should be dedicated entirely for the POW/MIA. He noted that he did send him a package and was trying to resolve an MIA issue on two aviators, who he has some personal contact with from Minnesota, in Vietnam and he is helping this family and doing research about whether they are still alive. He stated that he informed this person

they will have the POW/MIA flag as a permanent part of the memorial and he thinks that appealed him.

Mr. Goergen indicated that he received a call from a guy who is in the 8th Air Force Association but includes aviators from all branches. He noted it was very positive and the person wanted to be sure we let them know if there is anything they can do to help us to which he said they will probably stop by at some point to give them a presentation and may call on them when they get to the fundraising. He did state that they are a big group and represent all of the services as long as they were flyers.

Mr. Schwartz asked to address the Merchant Marine issue and stated to the best of his knowledge there have been no merchant marines from Edina although he has seen some from Minneapolis. Mr. Goergen noted that he thinks when they previously discussed this they said they would revisit it if they did have a casualty from the Merchant Marine.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 am