

**MINUTES  
OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMITTEE  
HELD AT CITY HALL  
MAY 20, 2011  
7:30 AM**

Mr. Keprios informed the committee that the City Council has directed all boards and commissions to use a new format for all agendas, staff reports and minutes.

***I. CALL TO ORDER***

Chairman Goergen called the meeting to order at 7:30 am

***II. ROLL CALL***

Answering rollcall were Members Goergen, Cardarelle, Reed, Christiaansen, Kojetin, Bender, Benson

***III. MEETING AGENDA APPROVED***

**Motion by Member Cardarelle and seconded by Member Bender approving the consent agenda as follows:**

***IV. CONSENT AGENDA ADOPTED***

**Motion made by Member Kojetin and seconded by Member Cardarelle approving the consent as follows:**

**IV.A. Approve regular meeting minutes of March 18, 2011**

**IV.B. Approve regular meeting minutes of April 15, 2011**

***V. REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS***

***V.A. VETERANS MEMORIAL LOCATION WITHIN UTLEY PARK***

Member Cardarelle made a motion, seconded by Member Benson, to place the Veterans Memorial at Utley Park where it is shown on Exhibit A. Mr. Goergen informed the committee that six members met at Utley Park on Monday and decided on a location, that being Exhibit A. Member Benson asked Mr. Kost if he had any reservations about the site that was chosen to which Mr. Kost replied there are none he can think of.

Member Kojetin informed Mr. Kost that one of the things they have talked about is when there is some type of dedication or memorial at the site that people can sit and kind of look at the water. Member Kojetin also pointed out there are a couple of maple trees at the site that are not going to last very long and the roots are on top so if concrete is put there it will probably pull them up. He noted that it's his feeling that those trees don't need to be there and that they can plant new trees. Mr. Kost replied that typically they like to work with what they have and noted that they will take a look at what the existing vegetation is. He pointed out to the committee in terms of their attitude towards vegetation is they may want to look at some thinning along the creek edge now that they are getting to that time of year where they will be there for a while and just see how things fill in because that may be part of the memorial. He explained that another thing to realize is that some people have a different attitude towards big trees these days in that they are learning more about the role they play for the ecology of the area in terms of providing oxygen, filtering water and also sequestering carbon which is something people didn't give much thought to 10 to 20 years ago. Mr. Kost commented a big tree sequesters a lot of carbon

which is good for the environment and when you remove a big tree and chip it or burn it that carbon goes back into the atmosphere. He added it may be only one or two trees but it's a big world and these kinds of things add up and knowing the committee's concern regarding sustainability and if you want people to look at the park and memorial as a sustainable operation it is something you will probably want to be mindful of. Mr. Kost noted that Mr. Kojetin did bring up a good point if those roots are really shallow and it has issues what they don't want to do is recommend construction or installation out there that somehow gets undermined by other factors. He stated that they balance everything out and it's important that they are mindful of everything they are going to do out there.

Mr. Keprios commented that he likes the ideas of the parking and driveway improvements someday but thinks they should hold off on those things until they are done with the project so that they spend their money working on the memorial. He indicated that for the other park related amenities and accessories that also serve the entire park, they will try to find a way to fund that through their capital improvement plan that will come at a later date. He added there are some restrooms improvements that will need to be done that will eventually have to be added; however, that serves the park as a whole and shouldn't be put on the shoulders of this committee to fundraise.

Member Goergen asked the committee based on the decision for the site that was chosen was it because it was the strongest one or was it that the other sites were lacking something or had shortcomings. Mr. Christiaansen responded they were saying between sites 2 and 3 and this was in the middle. So it really was between the two and that's where the actual stake was placed.

Ayes: Goergen, Cardarelle, Reed, Christiaansen, Kojetin, Bender, Benson  
Motion carried.

### **V.B. BLUE STAR MEMORIAL PROPOSAL**

Mr. Keprios informed the committee that after last month's meeting when the Garden Council suggested they may donate a Blue Star Memorial he went ahead and secured the application guideline information from the National Garden Club and received a little more background information. He explained that in his view this would be a wonderful thing for a park that didn't have a memorial where a nice plaque could be placed on a rock stating that this is a Blue Star Memorial; however, they already have a very defined and set purpose so to him it seems a duplication effort and doesn't feel it would be a good fit at Utley Park. Mr. Keprios explained that originally the Blue Star Memorial Marker Program was intended mainly for highways and has since found its way into cemeteries, parks, gardens, etc.

Member Goergen informed the committee that hopefully the Garden Council will be part of their support group to handle the annual plantings and maintenance of them. He noted that the Garden Council does have their own recognition symbol logo that is put in various flower beds that they have worked on throughout the city. Therefore he thinks the Garden Council could have their recognition in that way and if they assume responsibility for the plantings within the Veterans Memorial every year.

Mr. Benson commented maybe there could be a way the Blue Star Memorial could be incorporated into a project and not be obtrusive yet blend in. Member Benson asked Mr. Kost if he had any thoughts in terms of how it could maybe be integrated. Mr. Kost replied he would say the issue is what would be the advantage because Edina has a strong garden council that is committed to doing gardening in community parks and so if you didn't have that he would say let's try to figure out a way to get these people involved so that you can leverage that resource. He commented that he really doesn't know a lot about the program but if there is an advantage to getting some national recognition or ideally getting some funds then it may not be a bad idea. However; if it's simply something where they typically do roadside memorials and help you figure out how to put in a plaque he thinks they are way beyond that.

Member Reed asked the committee if they thought if they said no to the Blue Star would it jeopardize their relationship with the Garden Club. Member Kojetin responded that he was going to bring that up with the Garden Council and pointed out that the Edina Garden Club is affiliated with the National Federation of Garden Council. He noted that he would like to see some information between our Federated Garden Club and the Blue Star program and see what they have to say about it. Mr. Keprios stated that he is not sure if the Garden Council itself has voted, approved and recommended this or is it coming from a couple of individuals. Mr. Keprios indicated that another concern he has as staff is if this is something that should not be part of the \$400,000 budget. If they want to add things later and they want to donate it that's different.

Member Bender stated her concern is where you draw the line because there really are a lot meritorious organizations that support memories of the veterans. She indicated that once they open that door how do they say no to the next program of merit. Member Goergen pointed out that is one of his concerns as well because he has already been approached by the POW/MIA organizations wanting individual recognition. He added that he doesn't think it's a good fit for them but does think it's a good highway recognition project through the highway system.

Mr. Keprios indicated that he would be willing to invite himself to a Garden Council meeting to ask for their support in whatever capacity they would like to be involved.

**Member Cardarelle made a motion, seconded by Member Benson, to not incorporate the Blue Star Memorial as part of the design within the memorial itself, open for future consideration after the completion of the memorial outside of the project but in the future.**

Ayes: Goergen, Cardarelle, Reed, Christiaansen, Kojetin, Bender, Benson  
Motion carried.

### ***V.C. CALL FOR ARTISTS***

Mr. Keprios indicated that he would like to ask for forgiveness rather than ask for permission from the committee. He explained that the EPAC had suggested that if they want to do this right in looking for an artist that they should have \$500. He noted that Diana Hedges, Edina Art Center Director, helped secure the grant to which the check has been written and should be in the bank at the Edina Community Foundation. He added that the reason he did this is because they are running out of time and felt it needed to be moved on right away. He stated that he would like a formal recommendation from the committee that this is an appropriate expenditure.

Member Reed asked if they had any problem getting the \$500. Mr. Keprios responded no, that the \$500 was from a group where he was a luncheon speaker and did mention the veterans' memorial as part of his power point presentation and added there were a lot of the veterans in the group. Mr. Goergen pointed out that the funding was unsolicited. Mr. Keprios commented that it was a smaller group and they were more than happy to help.

**Member Bender made a motion to accept the \$500 donation to be used as a stipend for the chosen artist, seconded by member Cardarelle**

**Ayes: Goergen, Cardarelle, Reed, Christiaansen, Kojetin, Bender, Benson  
Motion carried.**

Mr. Keprios noted that the committee as a whole will ultimately select the artist, they will listen to recommendations from EPAC and Mr. Kost but this group will be making that decision.

## ***VII. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS***

### ***VII.A. FUNDRAISING/TREASURER***

Mr. Goergen informed the committee that he had hoped to have a progress report from member Lefler; however, he was not at the meeting. Member Goergen indicated that he has been informed that currently their balance in the Edina Foundation is \$200.00 plus the \$500.00 that was just deposited.

### ***VII.B. RESEARCH (KIAs)***

Member Benson informed the committee that member Schwartz only has a couple of people that he is doing further research on and other than that he is pretty well done with his research. Member Goergen noted that he believes member Schwartz has 30 to 35 KIAs from Edina that he would like to present to the committee. He noted there are a couple of exceptions that he would like the committee to discuss because they don't quite meet the criteria that the committee established for Edina KIAs research. Member Goergen pointed out that Member Schwartz has worked awfully hard and has done an outstanding job in his research as well as Member Benson, who has been helping Member Schwartz with the research.

## ***FINAL COMMENTS/QUESTIONS***

Mr. Keprios asked Mr. Kost if there is anything he would like the committee to start to think about or do you feel you will have some questions that will need to be answered sooner rather than later that they should start thinking about for the design process. Mr. Kost replied that he thinks his April 25<sup>th</sup> e-mail outlines and recaps the design process and some of the decisions that they see the group needing to be sure they keep on their radar screen. He pointed out that what he plans to do over the next couple of weeks is to come up with a variety of ideas for how to place the memorial with the program elements in the location that has been chosen. Mr. Kost commented that he has received a lot of calls and e-mails from artists looking for guidance and having questions to which he gives everyone the same information you do not want a sculpture of a person rather something like an eagle, globe, star, etc., but nothing too abstract. Mr. Reed stated that he does not want to limit the artist to just eagles because he feels eagles are used too much. Mr. Kost replied that he has been cautioning the artists to get a little out of their comfort limit and maybe do something a little different. He noted he also has told them that Edina is

very committed to elegance and sort of subtle; it doesn't have to be something massive, because it's not the only part of the memorial. Mr. Kost indicated that he is also encouraging people to think about stone and other kinds of materials besides steel and bronze because it could be something a little more unique that might be an attraction. Mr. Keprios informed the committee that he will distribute Mr. Kost's e-mail from April 25th to all members.

Mr. Kost explained that now it's going to be a matter of the shape of the plaza, the shape of the space and how they define that space. He noted that one of the things that are going to be critical is to try to create a bit of an outdoor room without it feeling too enclosed but also without it feeling too open. He commented that at the next meeting there will be a lot of sketches and other things for the committee to go through.

ADJOURNED