

**MINUTES
OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
HELD AT CITY HALL
JANUARY 17, 2014
7:30 AM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Olson called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Answering roll call were Members Benson, Cardarelle (arrived at 7:36 a.m.), Elliott, Kojetin, Olson, Reed, and Schwartz.

Staff in attendance: Kristin Aarsvold, Edina Park and Recreation Department Supervisor, and Sculptor John Shoop

Others in attendance: None.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

IV. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of the December 20, 2014 Veterans Memorial Committee Meeting Minutes.

Motion by Member Kojetin and seconded by Member Reed to approve the meeting minutes from the December 20, 2014 meeting as presented.

Ayes: Benson, Elliott, Kojetin, Olson, Reed, and Schwartz. Motion carried.

V. INTRODUCTION AND DISCUSSION ON SCULPTOR

Member Reed introduced the Committee to sculptor John Shoop who works out of American Bronze Casting in Osceola Wisconsin. He noted that he, Member Benson and Mr. Shoop visited the site earlier today prior to the meeting.

John Shoop introduced himself to the Committee and explained that he and his father began the business over 40 years ago and specialize in bronze sculptor. He discussed the process they use.

Member Cardarelle arrived.

Mr. Shoop continued to discuss the process used to create the sculptures. He noted that they are hundreds of municipal projects that his family's business has been involved in and provided photographs of previously completed work.

Chairman Olson questioned if there is any service included throughout the life of the piece, such as waxing.

Mr. Shoop stated that is not usually included but stated that there are some sculptures that the shop will follow up on for maintenance purposes and estimated those services around \$300 per year. He stated that most folks prefer the sculpture to age naturally. He advised that his business does work with Cold Springs Granite, which is one of the companies that discovered the black granite. He stated that in his experience they are a great company and are a manufacturer of the granite and recommended that company to be used for the granite base. He confirmed that all of the items of this size are provided with mounting hardware and they work with the manufacturer of the granite to assist with the drilling of the holes to ensure that the mountings will fit together. He also provided a sketch of an eagle that his father had created as an example for the Committee.

Mrs. Aarsvold confirmed that smaller versions of the sculpture could be created to provide to donors of a specific level.

Mr. Shoop stated that if the Committee wanted to go with this vision for the smaller eagles, the original design could be ready in 30 days, with a mold completed within about two weeks following that, and finished copies about four weeks after that. He estimated about ten weeks for the entire process. He noted that a portion of the manufacturing costs would be donated but he would need a commitment on at least 50. He noted that the timeline for the large eagle were included in his email and distributed that information to the Committee.

Member Reed stated that the Committee was hoping to have the large eagle completed by Veteran's Day 2014. He stated that this is a busy time for Mr. Shoop's business, so if the Committee would like to move forward with that timeline, the decision should be made soon to ensure that deadline could be reached. He stated that the payment would be split into three sections, noting that \$14,000 would be needed to begin the process. He noted that even though the quote was completed quite a while ago, Mr. Shoop is willing to move forward with that quote as material and production costs have not increased. He noted that Mr. Shoop is also willing to transport the large eagle to the site and oversee the installation.

Mrs. Aarsvold confirmed that the quoted cost for the eagle would be \$46,500.

Member Schwartz stated that perhaps Memorial Day would be a better deadline, for weather and timing purposes.

Chairman Olson agreed that Veteran's Day would be aggressive.

Member Kojetin believed that the Committee should focus on Veteran's Day, with the understanding that the event could take place on Memorial Day if needed.

Mr. Shoop stated that he can work around the financial amounts and timelines, as long as there is a solid commitment. He then left the room to allow the Committee to further discuss the issue.

Chairman Olson explained the current balance, which was slightly reduced for insurance that was needed to contract with Member Elliott. He explained that the contracting cost for Member Elliott's service was paid through the City.

Member Schwartz questioned if the Rotary would be willing to provide some funds upfront if desired.

Member Cardarelle believed that would be an option.

Member Schwartz stated that he really likes the sculpture and his attitude as far as being flexible with the payment timeline.

Motion by Member Schwartz and seconded by Member Kojetin to contract with John Shoop and American Bronze Casting from Osceola, Wisconsin to create the bronze eagle sculpture.

Ayes: Benson, Cardarelle, Elliott, Kojetin, Olson, Reed, and Schwartz. Motion carried.

Mrs. Aarsvold stated that there may be an opportunity to include an article in the *Sun Current* that states the Committee has hired an artist and provide input on that. She noted that providing information to the Park Board would be another opportunity to get the word out to the public.

John Shoop reentered the meeting and confirmed that he was a veteran, as well as his grandfather.

Member Reed stated that Committee has decided to select Mr. Shoop for the bronze eagle sculpture.

Mr. Shoop thanked the Committee and stated that they are very excited to make something like this that actually has meaning behind it.

VI. DESIGN DISCUSSION

Member Elliott stated that he is continuing to make progress and provided an update on a recent meeting with Bachman's regarding the landscaping. He stated that the landscaping plan is being developed and plants will then be selected that could work within the memorial that are readily available. He explained that hearty heirloom plants will be chosen that color at different times of the year to provide a better experience. He referenced the Watershed District requirements and noted that he has been working with the District to design the project to meet their requirements. He hoped to avoid having to complete a wetland delineation during this process, as that would have an additional cost associated. He hoped to accommodate the rain water garden on the

south side of the trail. He advised that the Garden Committee stated that they do not have experience with establishment of rain gardens and recommended that the service to be contracted out when bids are obtained.

Member Schwartz stated that the public have expressed concern with tree removal in the park and believed that anything regarding landscaping should include a statement that the area will be improved and trees will not be removed.

Member Elliott displayed the plans, which show elevations and the 100 year floodplain, and discussed the plans noting that he would want to ensure that the memorial is above the 100 year floodplain level. He also noted that the condition of the existing trail is very poor. He continued to discuss the plans for the site. He noted that these are draft plans and if the Committee approves, he would then move forward to the Park Board and the Watershed District.

Member Cardarelle stated that the Committee should not force themselves into a box with the language regarding tree removal and should instead state that any trees removed will be replaced.

Member Elliott continued to discuss the design plans and the plans for the rain garden area. He noted that he will provide alternate options for material in some places, such as granite and pavers, in order to provide alternate price points.

Member Reed suggested investigating By the Yard, which is a Minnesota company that uses recycled materials to construct benches.

VII. PARK BOARD MINUTES

This item will be discussed in February.

VIII. NEXT STEPS

A. FUNDRAISING

This item will be discussed in February.

B. MARKETING

This item will be discussed in February.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.