



VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK FOUNDATION OF PENSACOLA, INC.
Board of Directors Meeting, June 14, 2018
MINUTES

Board Members Present

Paul Entrekin, Michael Swinehart, Pete Frano, Peter McKanna, Jim Murphy, Andy Caputi, David Glassman, Jim Durr, Nancy Bullock-Prevot, Lisa Rawson, and Richard Penrose.

Board Members Absent

Butch Hansen, Stacy Pruitt, Bill Weeks (City Representative), and Ed Holt (legal advisor).

Guest(s) Present

Stan Barnard; Robert Bender; Bob Rivera; Jason Libbert (Pensacola Sports); Tom McKean (Beach Bum Trolley); Cris Dosev; Medal of Honor Recipient Doc Ballard; John Mills; Frenchy LaFontaine; and Warren Palmer (Volunteer Coordinator).

(Motions and actions taken are listed in red)

Call to Order and Welcome: President Entrekin called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and asked those present to observe a moment of silence for those represented in the Park. The Pledge of Allegiance followed the moment of silence.

President Entrekin recognized the visitors and asked if any had presentations. Mr. Libbert, the Director of Events for Pensacola Sports, discussed plans for this year's Pensacola Marathon which will be held on Sunday, November 11 (Veterans Day). He explained the race plans and layout of possible interference with the Veterans Day ceremony. He informed the Board that the Gulf Coast Veterans Advocacy Veterans Day parade is scheduled for Monday, November 12, so there is no conflict with those two events. This led to a lengthy discussion including the possible of holding the Veterans Day celebration on Monday. No action was taken.

Medal of Honor Recipient Doc Ballard, scheduled as the guest speaker for the evening's reschedule Memorial Day ceremony, thanked the Board for their efforts and support of Veterans in the area.

Tom KcKean discussed his support of 52 military reunions last year and plans for more this year. A retired Navy lieutenant, he has three friends on The Wall South, and mentioned a memorial ceremony and wreath laying on Tuesday, June 19, in honor of USS HENLEY. He complimented the Board on the appearance of the Park.

Robert Bender commended the Board for the Reading of the Names event. President Entrekin thanked him and pointed out that the event was the vision and result of efforts by Jill Hubbs.

Cris Dosev address the Board about his initiative to have the new Pensacola Bay Bridge named in honor of General Chappie James. The initiative has the support of the James family and a commitment from Captain Rasmussen to design and make a 1.5 scale statue of General James to be placed near the water at the Pensacola foot of the bridge.

John Mills, a retired Naval officer and candidate for Congress discussed his sponsorship of a parachute team to jump into the Park or the Hawkshaw property on July 7. The Board stated the jump could not occur in the Park if it is connected to his political campaign.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the May 28, 2018 meeting were presented. **Motion to accept the minutes as presented was made Michael Swinehart. Second by Nancy Bullock-Prevot. The motion carried.**

Treasure's Report: Pete Frano reported on the following:

- The current balance in the Pen Air business account is \$19,623.00. The Bank of Pensacola balance is \$13,260.00. The total balance is \$32,883.
- Analyzed brick sales to determine the costs. Of \$13,500.00 collected so far, the cost of the bricks was \$1,873.50. The 66 4"x8" bricks cost \$19.00 each (sponsors pay \$125.00); the 21 8"x8" bricks cost \$29.50 each (sponsors pay \$250.00).
- Outlined recent payments including \$388.00 to Signal 88; \$476.00 to Smith Electric; \$348.00 for framing; \$154.00 to Cox; and, \$267.00 in credit card transaction fees.



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- Andy Caputi led a brief discussion about potential cheaper options for accounting fees which are currently \$2,400.00 per year. This will be looked into further including a comparison of accountant qualifications to protect the Board and the Park.
- **Motion by Richard Penrose to accept the Treasurer's report. Second by Andy Caputi. The motion carried.**

President's Report: President Entrekin reported on the following:

- Opened with a discussion on the postponed Memorial Day ceremony scheduled for later in the evening and the incoming inclement weather. All Board members agreed that canceling the event was the best option due to the set-up required and the risk of more bad weather. **Motion by Michael Swinehart to cancel the event. Second by Jim Durr. The motion carried.**
- Signal 88 reported one couple was recently found in the Park after hours, was asked leave, and left without incident.
- Andy Caputi was sworn in as Vice President and all Board members were also sworn into office.
- Butch Hansen has submitted the Impact 100 grant application.
- Presented Michael Swinehart with a frame photo as a going away gift from the Board in recognition of his past service on the board.

Committee Reports

Operations Officer: Pete McKanna reported on the following:

- The State's Attorney is prosecuting the gentleman who was recently arrested for damaging the GWOT Memorial. He has been confirmed as a Veteran with a violent record and has been issued a restraining order prohibiting him from being within 500 feet of the Park.
- The Vietnam Veterans Memorial has added another 15 names to the Wall. This requires this Board to make the same additions which will cost \$900.00. **Motion by Jim Durr to install the 15 names. Second by Nancy Bullock-Prevot. The motion carried.**

Walk of Honor: Richard Penrose reported on the following:

- To date, 64 small and 19 large bricks have been sponsored. The first evolution of sorting and validating engravings was difficult. Richard thanked everyone for their help, specially Pete McKanna.
- Dave Glassman noted that the new website platform now allows an online search for names on The Wall South and will also improve online brick orders.

Vice President: Michael Swinehart had nothing further to add to his comments at the last meeting.

Past President: Butch Hansen was not present.

Technology: David Glassman reported on the following:

- Mentioned that there was discussion within the community for new memorials, including for a Gold Star Family Memorial. Dave provided information on a non-profit that installs these memorials. This initiative will be discussed at a later date.
- **Dave Glassman made a motion to research options for installation of a Gulf War Memorial. Second by Michael Swinehart. The motion carried.**
- Another ceremony to recognize Marine Corps aviation mishaps is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, August 19. Other possible dates are Saturday, August 18 and Thursday, August 16. SgtMaj Gray at MATSG 21 has committed his full support. A decision on the exact date will be made at the next meeting.

Military Liaison: Stacy Pruitt was not present. Bob Rivera mentioned the possibility of providing additional recognition to volunteers.

Finance and Marketing: A chairperson is still needed for this committee.

Merchandise: No report.



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Public Affairs: No report.

City: Bill Weeks was not present.

Legal: Ed Holt was not present.

Business from the floor:

- Andy Caputi was curious about the results of his personal letter writing campaign. Jim Murphy and Richard Penrose commented on a recent brick sponsorship received with the letter the sponsor received from Andy.
- Andy Caputi reported that the Blue Angels have tentatively agreed to assist in painting the Cobra. They have a 30-person crew and materials; the Board will provide the paint, a lift, and other necessary equipment.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 5:25p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 28, at 3:30p.m.

Submitted by:

James M. Murphy