



VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK FOUNDATION OF PENSACOLA, INC.
Board of Directors Meeting, October 10, 2019
MINUTES

Board Members Present

Paul Entrekin, Don Chipman, Pete Frano, Peter McKanna, Jim Murphy, Dave Glassman, Stacy Pruitt, Stan Barnard, and Butch Hansen.

Board Members Absent

Jill Hubbs, Nancy Bullock-Prevot, Hosea Goodwyn (City Representative), and Ed Holt (Legal Advisor).

Guest(s) Present

Mike Cotton (filmmaker); Emily Echevarria (Ballinger Publishing); Joe and Carrie Herring (Gulf Coast Veterans Advocacy Council); Sean Hollonbeck (Board applicant) and his daughter Olivia); Andrew Del Guadio (Board applicant); 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 reflected in the Park. The Pledge of Allegiance followed the moment of silence. President Entrekin then invited guests to address the Board.

Sean Hollonbeck, a recently retired Army physician, introduced himself to the Board. He has started a local non-profit to provide equine therapy to Veterans with PTS.

Andrew Del Guadio, a recently retired Marine officer, introduced himself to the Board. He is a member of the Escambia Military Order of the Purple Heart and received a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Liverpool.

Joe Herring stated that the Veterans Day Parade will begin at 10:00am and he expects it to end at the Park at 10:45am. He informed the Board that Gary Reynolds would receive the Bud E. Day Award during the Veterans Day ceremony.

Mike Cotton shared the story of how he came to produce an upcoming documentary, "Back to China Beach." He asked for the Board's support of the world premiere of the movie to be held in Pensacola. He is enlisting the assistance of non-profits, particularly Veteran-focused organization, across the county to host the film and with whom he would share proceeds. After a long discussion, it was decided that because of several other events and the short timeline, there would not be full participation in preparing for that event which Mr. Cotton hopes to hold by early-December.

Emily Echeverria is working on a story for the November issue of Pensacola Magazine covering the history and ongoing operations of Veterans Memorial Park. Butch Hansen agreed to give her a tour and share his knowledge of the Park during the week of October 14.

Secretary's Report: Jim Murphy reported on the following:

- Minutes from the September 26 meeting were distributed via email. No changes or corrections were requested. **Motion to accept the Minutes as written by Pete McKanna. Second by Stacy Pruitt. The motion carried.**
- The Foundation has been operating on a 180-day extension of the charitable contributions license because the 2018 tax return was not ready before the licensing deadline. The tax return has been submitted to the State and the Foundation is in full compliance.
- Started a discussion of the by-laws which states "The candidates receiving the highest number of votes up to the number of directors to be elected shall be elected to serve on the board." There is no requirement that applicants receive majority support of the Board. After discussion, **Don Chipman made a motion to add a requirement to that portion of the by-laws, specifically: "Each candidate must receive a majority of the quorum."** **Second by Stan Barnard. The motion carried.**

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

- The current balance available is \$15,779.



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- Recent transactions include \$7,600 of deposits and payment of \$8,225, \$5,000 of that from a recent donation, to Verdin for the Marine Aviation Memorial Bell Tower maintenance contract.
- He negotiated with Cox for faster service and a lower bill. The new plan will cost \$90.00 per month.

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

- Ed Holt is in discussion with the City attorney regarding the existing cut-outs on the border of the Park with Admiral Mason Park. Ed will also get clarification of the Sunshine Law applicability to the Foundation.
- Ed Holt asked President Entrekin to express his thanks to the Board for the photo, hat, and shirt presented to him.
- Everything for Veterans Day is taken care of. The only known is if any groups desire to conduct a wreath laying. He has not received any further information from Cumulus Communications.
- He raised the issue of the date for the Christmas Tree lighting ceremony. The event will be held on December 14.
- He informed all Board members that the Executive Committee has reviewed a letter from local attorney Bob Kerrigan regarding his concerns that Marcus Michel's name and a reference to his legal practice appears on the Purple Heart Monument. Butch replied to a similar letter in February 2017 and will forward that letter to President Entrekin, and a draft new letter, for forwarding to the City attorney.

Vice President's Report: Don Chipman reported on the following:

- The Escambia County Board of County Commissioners will vote on the Sheriff's proposed \$5,000 donation during their next meeting.
- He will work on the Gulf Power grant application and hopes to submit it before the next meeting.

Operations Officer: Pete McKanna reported on the following:

- The City reported to Pete that the new park benches are on the way.
- The lights on the Wall South are currently working 100% and are brighter than the last ones installed.
- The Park will be pressure washed on October 16 in preparation for the October 19 clean-up. The event will include coconut oil being applied to statues which is how they have been cleaned in the past. The event has been downsized because DR Horton volunteers will be working in the Park on November 7 and 8. This is believed to be the first of several events by DR Horton.
- The new Purple Heart Monument will be installed on November 7.

Committee Reports

Walk of Honor: Butch Hansen reported on the following:

- The final order of bricks to be installed before Veterans Day included 54 bricks. That order will ship on October 23 and will be installed the following week. The Naval Academy Alumni Association has ordered 32 bricks to date. Those will also be installed before Veterans Day.
- There has been a total of 445 bricks orders, 59 of which have been since August 1, 2019, for almost \$68,000 in gross revenue.
- Two plaques were recently installed at the Park entrance and landscaped today. Butch attempted to contact Commander Colin Pemberton, who donated the marble after his friends names were engraved on the Wall South, to let him know. He spoke with the Commander's wife, Doris, who informed Butch that the Commander passed away in July.

Technology: Dave Glassman reported on the following:

- He has not received photos of the merchandise to be displayed on the website and he is leaving town next week and will be unable to take the photos himself.
- There was further discussion of the Back to China Beach premiere proposal.

Events Coordinator: Don Chipman had nothing to report.



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Merchandise: Nancy Bullock-Prevot was not present.

- Butch Hansen displayed 36 coffee mugs with Foundation images that were donated by Dan Lindeman who also wants to do a Red, White, and Blue kite event in the Park.

Fundraising: Stan Barnard reported on the following:

- A donation of \$5,000 was received from Wells Fargo (and reported in the Treasurer's deposits).
- He purchased a speaker for \$200.00 for use at his friend's upcoming promotion ceremony in the Park and will donate the speaker to the Foundation.

Military Liaison: Stacy Pruitt reported on the following:

- All volunteers are lined up for Veterans Day.

City Representative: Hosea Goodwyn was not present.

Business from the floor:

- Warren Palmer mentioned that the Senior Elder from Grace Lutheran Church intends to speak at the next meeting regarding the Church's desire to expand their Easter Sunrise Service.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 5:41pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 24, at 3:30p.m.

Submitted by:

James M. Murphy