

**VETERANS MEMORIAL ISLAND SANCTUARY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, June 1, 2022 – 9:30 a.m.
City Hall, Council Chambers, Vero Beach, Florida**

PRESENT: Chairman, John Michael Matthews; Vice Chairman, Curtis Paulisin; Members: Melissa Arndt, Michelle Dale, and Carolyn Lange **Also Present:** Assistant City Attorney, Jenny Flanigan; Assistant Director of Public Works, Richard Mutterback; and Senior Administrative Assistant, Rita Chartier

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Matthews called today's meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Committee members and the audience joined together in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) May 4, 2022

Mr. Matthews asked to make one (1) correction on page 5 of the May 4th minutes. He said the actual Marine Corps Birthday is on November 10th, but the Birthday Ball will be on November 12, 2022.

Mr. Matthews made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2022 Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee meeting with the one (1) correction made. Mr. Paulisin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Matthews reported that he received an application to use Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary and he would like to add it under New Business. He said usually the applications are for memorial services, but this one (1) is for a re-enlistment ceremony for George C. Voyles. He stated that Mr. Voyles already has 16 years in the service and he is re-enlisting for four (4) more years. The ceremony will be on August 27, 2022 and they are expecting less than 30 people to be there.

Mr. Matthews made a motion to approve the application for the re-enlistment ceremony for George Voyles. Mrs. Dale seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A) Update on the Stage and World War II Tribute

Mr. Matthews gave a handout to the Committee members and said it is a rendering of the inspiration for the stage and World War II (WWII) tribute done by Mr. Scott Johnson, Architect (on file in the City Clerk's office). He explained that they will hear more about this project as it moves forward over the next few years, but City Council will have the final approval.

Mrs. Lange commented that it is a beautiful design.

Mr. Matthews explained that the tiles along the front of the stage are designed to represent the ribbons of the different conflicts and awards of WWII. They all agree that they need to honor the WWII Veterans and they need a stage, so this will be an improvement and a great addition to Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary.

B) Recap of the Memorial Day Service – May 30, 2022

Mr. Matthews said first of all, they would like to thank Mr. Cameron Mays for loaning the Veterans Council a stage to use for the Memorial Day service. Not only did he delivered the stage to the Island and set it up, but he did not charge them for it either. Mr. Matthews continued by giving a recap of the events from the Memorial Day Ceremony. He said they printed 750 programs and they were all handed out, so their estimate is that there were about 1,000 people who attended.

Mr. Paulisin asked if Mr. Mays reached out to the City, or did someone contact Mr. Mays.

Mr. Matthews explained that Mr. Rob Ryan, Indian River County Sheriff's office, met him during the Wreaths Across America event and he invited him to the Memorial Day Service. Mr. Matthews said he asked for Mr. Mays' phone number and that he contacted him.

Mrs. Dale stated that she would like to compliment the Keynote Speaker, General Randall Guthrie for focusing on the fallen during his speech. He stuck to the subject and talked about the Gold Stars. His speech was all about honoring and remembering the fallen, which is the purpose of Memorial Day. She stated that she also attended the Memorial Day service in Sebastian, Florida. As a Gold Star Mother, she felt that our fallen loved ones were remembered at both services.

7. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

Mr. Mathews reported that he attended the Vietnam Veterans reunion in Daytona Beach, Florida, which was advertised as "A tribute so meaningful it will change history". It was one (1) of the best reunions he has ever seen and it was certainly the largest Vietnam Veterans reunion. He said there were about 35,000 people on the infield of the Daytona Beach Speedway and they estimated there were about 10,000 Vietnam Veterans. They handed out Vietnam War pins to those they could identify as Vietnam Veterans. He explained that the Heroes Honor festival was the largest welcome home event for Vietnam Veterans and Vietnam Veterans got in for free along with free parking. They also handed out free fold up lawn chairs to the Vietnam Veterans and their spouses. The main entertainer was Toby Keith, but Craig Morgan and Justin Moore also performed.

Mr. Matthews announced that Lt. Colonel Eric “Rip” Wieler recently passed away and they will honor his memory and have a memorial service for him in November.

8. MEMBER’S MATTERS

Mrs. Dale reminded everyone that the Traveling Vietnam Wall will be at the Gold Star Mothers convention in West Palm Beach from June 23 - 26 and anyone is welcome to come see it. She announced that she had the honor of spearheading a drive by birthday party at the American Legion for a 98 year old WWII Veteran, Bill Keegan. She said that some Veterans even got Mr. Keegan on a motorcycle and took him for a ride.

Mr. Paulisin announced that the annual Vietnam Veterans Golf Tournament will be on June 18th at the Sandridge Golf Club. Right now, they have over 200 golfers signed up. The money they raise goes to help the homeless or soon to be homeless Veterans. He stated that one (1) of their sponsors is Winn-Dixie and on June 8th they are going to have a re-grand opening at the store on Oslo Road and they will be presenting the Vietnam Veterans with a check for about \$2,000 to be used towards the homes for the Veterans.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

A) July 6, 2022

The next meeting of the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee is scheduled for July 6, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Today’s meeting adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

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