

**VETERANS MEMORIAL ISLAND SANCTUARY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, July 7, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.
City Hall, Council Chambers, Vero Beach, Florida**

PRESENT: Chairman, John Michael Matthews; Members: Barbara Fallon, Melissa Arndt and Alternate Member, Sylvester McIntosh **Also Present:** Assistant City Attorney, Jenny Flanigan; Assistant Public Work’s Director, Richard Mutterback; Assistant Recreation Director, Patty Howard; and Senior Administrative Assistant, Rita Hawkins

Excused Absences: Curtis Paulisin and Peggy Lyon

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman 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) June 2, 2021

Mr. Matthews said near the bottom of the second page of the minutes the word “vole” is misspelled. The correct spelling should be “volley”. He explained that a raffle volley is usually seven (7) members each firing three (3) rounds that adds up to 21 guns, but it is not a 21 gun salute. The three (3) rounds represent duty, honor, and country.

Ms. Fallon made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2021 Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee meeting with the one (1) correction made. Mr. McIntosh seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. NEW BUSINESS

A) Request for use of the Island for 9/11 20th Anniversary Memorial Service - Indian River County Sheriff’s Office

Mr. Matthews announced that the Indian River County Sheriff’s Office is requesting to use Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary for a memorial service for the 20th Anniversary of 9/11. They plan to be on the Island from 6:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. and they are expecting 100 to 150 people to attend. He said this is certainly an appropriate use of the Island.

Mr. Matthews made a motion to approve the application from the Indian River County Sheriff's office. Ms. Fallon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

B) Information on a Memorial Service held for Duane Duncan – June 24, 2021

Mr. Matthews explained that a memorial service was held on the Island on June 24, 2021 for Duane Duncan and they had approximately 40 people in attendance. It was a short notice, but they were able to obtain all the necessary signatures on the application.

Mr. Matthews stated that they also received another application that came in late and it was not on the agenda. It was submitted by Joyce Massaros and she is requesting to hold a memorial service for Gorge Joseph Massaros. The Committee members all received a copy of the application and his DD Form 214 showing he was honorably discharged. The request is for August 4, 2021 from 8:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. and they are expecting 20 to 25 people.

Ms. Fallon made a motion to approve the application as presented. Mr. Matthews seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

C) Flag Pole

Mr. Matthews explained that he was recently out at Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary and he noticed the flag pole was infested with insects and water was pouring out of it. He said he is not sure how water would be coming out of the flag pole, but he wanted to mention it and bring it to the City's attention.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A) Recap of the Words From War Monument Dedication, June 26, 2021 - Mr. Bruce Cady, Next Generation Veterans

Mr. Matthews said Mr. Bruce Cady, Next Generation Veterans, was planning on attending today's meeting, but maybe he is running late.

Mr. Matthews explained that the Words From War monument is complete and they are still working at installing a QR Code so that people can scan it with their phone and listen to the audio. The monument is close to the Island and their Committee supported the building of this monumental art piece. It has three (3) concrete blast walls that are covered by a dome. The words on the walls came from interviews that the artist had with some Next Generation Veterans. He said that Mr. Cady certainly knows more about it, so if he shows up they will come back to this item.

B) Update on World War I Monument

Mr. Matthews said the Committee working on the World War I monument are the Indian River Chapter of Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and Colonel Carlos Halcomb is leading it. The bronze doughboy statue was approved and it is in the process of being cast. He

explained that a generous donation was made by Mrs. Kathy Schumann, who is very active with helping Veterans in the community. It costs about \$24,000 to have the doughboy statue cast and another \$2,700 to have the base built and installed.

Mr. Richard Mutterback, Assistant Public Work's Director, stated that City staff is working with Colonel Halcomb to get a materials list. They plan to have the sidewalk poured and the pedestal done by the end of July.

Mr. Matthews said they need to request to use the money from the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary account that was donated for this project.

Mr. Mutterback said once they get the materials list, they will go out and spray paint the location on the ground so they can get the final approval before the pedestal is installed.

C) Update on a Stage for Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary

Mr. Matthews explained that currently there is no stage available to use on the Island and they have discussed building a permanent stage. They were given an example of a raised platform with ramps on the sides and they could possibly use the front of it to honor the World War II Veterans. If they received a significant donation they could possibly buy another portable stage, but the larger the trees grow the less room they have to move a stage. If they build a permanent raised area they could install aluminum poles in the corners to hold a temporary shade cover. The poles and cover could be taken down after the event.

Ms. Fallon asked what size was the old stage and what size do they think they would need for a concrete platform.

Mrs. Patty Howard, Assistant Recreation Director, replied that the covered stage they previously used was 16 feet x 24 feet.

Mr. Mathews said they could probably determine what size stage could be brought on and off the Island so that it could also be used by the City. He said these are still ideas they are working on and they will keep it on the agenda so they can eventually come up with a solution. They all agree they need a stage for the Island because it is the perfect location for the Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies.

7. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

A) Christie Lamond's Promotion Ceremony to Major

Mr. Matthews stated that recently a promotion ceremony took place on the Island, which is an appropriate use. Christie Lamond was promoted from Captain to Major and she has quite an extensive resume. Her family and friends were there as well as many individuals from the Veterans Council and following the ceremony she had a brunch at Costa d'Este Resort.

Mr. Matthews said that previously the Committee flushed out some ideas for honoring the World War II (WWII) Veterans, so he would like to keep this on the agenda. He said he went up to Merritt Island to see what their Veterans Memorial Park offered and they have much larger items like planes, and tanks, which are not be appropriate for Vero Beach's Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary.

Mr. Matthews explained that their Committee did approve to have a monument on the Island for the current conflicts. One (1) idea was to create a garden of reembrace that would have different colored monuments for the war on terrorism, the Iraq War, and for the Afghanistan War.

Mr. Matthews stated that they had a beautiful fireworks display on July 4th and the fireworks company did a great job cleaning up the Island.

8. MEMBER'S MATTERS

None

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

A) August 4, 2021

The next meeting of the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee is scheduled for August 4, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Today's meeting adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

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