



HOME OF PELICAN ISLAND
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AGENDA
CITY OF SEBASTIAN
VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, May 5TH, 2024
3:00 PM

- 1) CALL TO ORDER
- 2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 3) ROLL CALL
- 4) MEETING CHAIR MAKE ANNOUNCEMENTS
- 5) AGENDA MODIFICATIONS
Modifications and additions require unanimous vote of members. Deletions do not apply.
- 6) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
August 5, 2024 Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2024 Meeting Minutes
- 7) UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
Item A:
- 8) PUBLIC INPUT
- 9) NEW BUSINESS:
Item A: Veterans Memorial Update
Item B: SCORE Veterans Services presentation
Item C: Memorial Day celebration plan
Item D: July 4th parade participation
- 10) STAFF MATTERS
- 11) BOARD OR COMMITTEE MEMBER MATTERS
- 12) ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA AND DATE: **August 4, 2025 @ 3:00pm**
- 13) ADJOURN

ANY PERSON WHO DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT THIS MEETING (OR HEARING) WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS AND MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE HEARD. (286.0105 F.S.)

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA), ANYONE WHO NEEDS A SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION FOR THIS MEETING SHOULD CONTACT THE CITY'S ADA COORDINATOR AT 589-5330 AT LEAST 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THIS MEETING.

**VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 2024**

I. Chairman Spiecker called the Veterans Advisory Board meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

III. Roll Call

Present

Gary Spiecker, American Legion Member
Rich Feldhann, Past Commander, American Legion
Kim Paskiewicz, VFW Auxiliary Member
Neil Baumgartner, VFW Member

Excused: Kristin Burr

Also Present

Richard Blankenship, Parks Director
Joseph Perez, AV Technical Assistant
Janet Graham, Technical Writer

IV. Meeting Chair Makes Announcements - None

V. Agenda Modifications

A. Mr. Blankenship stated that Holly Hamilton will be making a presentation later in the meeting.

VI. Approval of Minutes - April 8, 2024

All having indicated they had reviewed the Minutes as presented, Chairman Spiecker called for a motion. A motion accepting the Minutes of April 8, 2024 as presented was made by Mr. Feldhann, seconded by Mr. Baumgartner, and approved unanimously via voice vote.

VII. Unfinished Business

A. America 250 Monument Location Discussion

Mr. Blankenship introduced Ms. Holly Hamilton. Ms. Hamilton introduced Ms. Katie Kelly who is the State Treasurer for the Honda Society as well as the local Society of Daughters of the American Revolution. Ms. Hamilton said that today she wanted to discuss the final

product, referring to a photograph displayed on the Board members' monitors. She described that America 250 is ongoing until July of 2026, which is the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding. There was discussion among Ms. Hamilton and the Board members. Ms. Hamilton described the wording as being hand carved. She described the base, which will have a 13-star flag on the front of it which will look like the Betsy Ross Flag in honor of the 13 original colonies. She stated the monument should be ready for installation in July 2026. She added that this project is fully funded by the Society, so it will be no cost to the City.

There being no further discussion on this matter, Chairman Spiecker called for a motion on the location of the monument. A motion approving the location of the Monument as displayed was made by Mr. Feldhann, seconded by Mr. Baumgartner, and approved unanimously via voice vote.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Spiecker called for a motion on the design of the monument. A motion approving the design of the Monument as displayed was made by Mr. Spiecker, seconded by Ms. Paskiewicz, and approved unanimously via voice vote.

Ms. Hamilton asked, if there are any minor changes, such as changing the font, etc., would that be okay without them having to return to this Board for approval. It was the consensus of the Board that that would be okay.

VIII. Public Input - None

IX. New Business

A. Veterans Day Planning

Mr. Blankenship stated that he would like to talk about all the events that are upcoming between now and Veterans Day to make sure that everyone will have them on their calendars and the City staff are ready when they need to be. He understands that the Agenda only says Veterans Day Planning, and he knows there will be several more between now and Veterans Day.

Ms. Paskiewicz said the POW/MIA is September 20th Goldstar Mothers is September 29th. She said the VFW is in charge of the POW/MIA, and Goldstar Mothers is being handled by the American Legion. The VFW will be in charge of the Veterans Day planning. 911 will be handled by the American Legion.

Ms. Paskiewicz mentioned that the last time there was a service at the Park, there was no shade for the veterans, and it was very hot out there. She asked if there is any way to do some shade of some sort. Mr. Blankenship said he would get with staff and see what can be done.

Mr. Spiecker brought up the subject of the loudspeaker at the Veterans Memorial. He stated that everyone in front of the speaker can hear, but the people behind us cannot hear the speaker. He suggested additional loudspeakers be provided. Mr. Blankenship said he will bring that to the attention of those in charge of that part of the event.

- X. Staff Matters -- None
- XI. Board or Committee Member Matters -- None
- XII. Items for the Next Agenda and Date: **November 4, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.**
- XIII. Adjourn

There being no further business, Chairman Spiecker adjourned the meeting at 3:12 p.m.

By: _____
Chairman Spiecker

Date: _____

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**VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2024**

I. Acting Chairperson Kristin Burr called the Veterans Advisory Board meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

III. Roll Call

Present

Ms. Burr, VFW Commander
Mr. Baumgartner, VFW Member
Ms. Paskiewicz, VFW Auxiliary Member

Also Present

Ron Paul, Administrative Assistant, Parks and Recreation
Richard Blankenship, Parks Director
Joseph Perez, AV Technical Assistant
Janet Graham, Technical Writer

IV. Meeting Chair Makes Announcements

A. Chairperson Burr stated that she has an announcement from the Purple Heart Cane Project. On January 25th, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. they will be doing a presentation of their Purple Heart Cane Project at the Navy Seal Museum in Fort Pierce.

V. Agenda Modifications

A. Chairperson Burr announced that the Minutes will not be approved today due to there not being a quorum for a vote. That item will be tabled until the next meeting.

VI. Approval of Minutes - **August 8, 2024 Meeting Minutes.** As stated above.

VII. Unfinished Business

A. Veterans Day Planning and Support

Chairperson Burr stated that the VFW of Sebastian is in charge of the November 11th ceremony at 11:00 a.m. at Riverview Park. The draft of the flyer is being developed now,

and that should be all set. She added that the veterans group needs to reach out to Mayor Ed Dodd to see if he will read a proclamation.

Mr. Blankenship stated that City staff is prepared and will have the road closures, etc. ready for that event.

Chairperson Burr stated that the VFW will probably have something that afternoon as refreshments, etc. for everyone.

Ms. Paskiewicz said she will be taking the brochure to the printer, and she will email the original to Ms. Burr, and she can get it copied.

Mr. Paul said he would like to have the draft on Thursday, or Friday at the latest.

Mr. Baumgartner asked what the veterans are doing for the Christmas Parade. Mr. Blankenship said that Ron Paul will be reaching out to make sure that the Honor Guard is set for the parade. He said that is going to be a very busy weekend.

VIII. Public Input

Lloyd Lasenby identified himself as President and Co-Founder of the Purple Heart Cane Project. He described the program and had two canes which he passed around to the Board members so they could see the finished products, which he also described in detail. He said that this year they will be presenting 60 of those canes. He reviewed who will be speaking at the ceremony, and he invited all of the Veterans Advisory Board members and the organizations to attend. The Honor Guard will be done by Sebastian Honor Guard. They have a Facebook page and a web page. He has applications for distribution to anyone who is combat wounded as a Purple Heart. He added that the canes take anywhere from a month to two months to finish, so it is too late to have the ceremony in January. He handed out applications to the Board members. He also emphasized that this work is all done by volunteers, and absolutely no one gets paid.

IX. New Business

A. Pearl Harbor Event Planning and Support

Chairperson Burr stated that she thinks that the Pearl Harbor event is going to be handled by the Legion this year, so the Board may have to get with them on their own and get with the Legion members who are taking care of that event this year. Ms. Paskiewicz agreed.

B. Day of Caring Follow-up

VETERAMS ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 4, 2024

PAGE 3

Mr. Blankenship stated that staff wanted to put it on the agenda to thank Dr. Holly Hamilton and her group for going out and cleaning the memorial.

- X. Staff Matters -- None
- XI. Board or Committee Member Matters - None
- XII. Items for the Next Agenda and Date: **January 6, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.**

Chairperson Burr said that she will not be present at that meeting. Ms. Paskiewicz said that the Four Chaplains event should be on the January agenda. The date is February 3rd.

- XIII. Adjourn

There being no further business, Chairperson Burr adjourned the meeting at 3:21 p.m.

By: _____
Acting Chairperson Burr

Date: _____

Jg-