

MINUTES OF THE VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMISSION

Monday, June 13, 2016 at 5:15 p.m.

Roll Call: Present were Ed Adkins, Leo Lease, Teresa McCall (Chad Rose joined at 5:17 p.m.) Brenda Bortell was absent. A quorum was present and McCall called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Perfecting and Approval of Agenda: Lease moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Adkins. All ayes. Agenda approved.

Election of Officers: Adkins moved to reinstall McCall as chair of the commission. Rose seconded. All ayes. Motion carried. McCall moved to install Adkins as co-chair of the commission. Rose seconded. All ayes. Motion carried. Election of Recording Secretary was tabled until a new commission member is appointed to replace Brenda Bortell who is going off the commission, as she is moving out of town.

Approval of Minutes from Monday, May 16, 2016 meeting: All present indicated they read the minutes. Lease moved to approve the minutes as presented. Adkins seconded. All ayes. Minutes approved.

Communication, Bill Expenditures and Income: To be covered under old and new business.

Old Business:

- a. Grinnell Veterans Memorial Commission Building Campaign: Nicole Behrens from the Greater Poweshiek Community Foundation was unable to attend- no report on balance. Tammy Kriegel, co-chair of the fundraising committee of the task force reported that she had taken another \$4-5000 in verbal pledges since the last report.
- b. City Budget Update: The city clerk reported that there was approximately \$9,000 left from the FY 16 budget which closes June 30, 2016.
- c. Tax Levy Vote: A petition with over 500 signatures (only 67 required) was presented to the city clerk on Tuesday, June 6 by the chair of the Veterans Commission and five community members, with two media representatives present. The group was told by the City Clerk that the petition would be presented to the City Council at their next regular meeting on June 20. The Clerk also stated that the Secretary of State was being consulted about the next eligible election date.
- d. Building Repairs/Options: McCall invited Allen Latcham, member of the Veterans Memorial Building Task Force to speak about the condition of the roof as a leak was reported following the volunteer work day on April 30. Latcham presented 3 different options for roof repair and estimates provided by J&M Roofing out of Brooklyn, Iowa. After questions were posed to and answered by Latcham, and after discussion among the commission members, McCall moved to approve up to \$500 from the remaining FY 2016 budget for roof patching in the Northeast corner of the building, payable to J&M Roofing of Brooklyn, Iowa. Rose seconded. All ayes. Motion carried. Mildew remediation was discussed next, with two options and

estimates presented from Iowa Duct Doctor of Grinnell. The more expensive option included mildew remediation of the existing duct work- which everyone agreed would be removed eventually as part of the HVAC upgrade to the building. McCall moved to approve up to \$6,000 to Iowa Duct Doctor from the FY 2016 budget for mildew remediation and air quality testing. Adkins seconded. All ayes. Motion carried. The commission next discussed dehumidifiers and fans to keep the air quality level acceptable. It was agreed that household dehumidifiers would be a waste of funds. Rose was charged with checking with the city to determine if there were commercial grade dehumidifiers that could be used in the building to save money. McCall made a motion to approve up to \$2,000 for the purchase or rental of commercial grade dehumidifiers before June 30. Lease seconded. All ayes. Motion carried. McCall noted that she had a contact who was working to obtain new doors and would donate installation of the doors for the south side of the building's lower level. McCall made a motion to approve the acceptance of new, donated doors and installation of the doors on the south side of the building's lower level. Adkins seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

e. Work Day: No discussion.

f. Fundraising Events: June 23 Pizza Ranch tip night, June 25 tag sale, silent auction, and bake sale at Seeland Park Social Center. Masonic Building offered front window for display of items and information.

New Business:

- a. Keys/Access to Building: McCall reported that as chair of the Veterans Commission, she did still not have a key as allowed. The three "master key holders" according to the city by-laws are: City of Grinnell, Emergency Services, and Chair of the Veterans Commission. Since the locks were changed the first week of May, the city office is the only key holder.
- b. Joint Meeting with City Council: McCall reported she met with Jo Wray on June 8 and discussed a joint meeting with the City Council. Wray indicated there was no hurry in setting a meeting, and presented a proposed agenda including discussion about the tax levy vote and possible ways in which the city could provide "technical assistance" to the commission. Wray indicated that in years past, help from an intern was offered in grant-writing assistance. The city may invite us to be part of a meeting in the future. No action was taken.
- c. Ownership/control of Patio Area: After McCall received calls and emails from concerned citizens and reviewed documents suggesting ownership/control of the patio area lies with the veterans commission, and after it was learned that the Central Park plan included elevating the drain intake to 2 feet above the finished floor of the lower level of the VMB, McCall (on her own) consulted an attorney and sent an email to the City Manager on June 8 asking that the work affecting the patio and building stop until ownership and control of that area could be determined.

McCall made a motion for approval from the commission to seek legal advice (free of charge to the commission) to protect the building and patio area. Adkins seconded. All ayes. Motion carried. McCall noted that this was done outside of a closed session (as allowed by law when discussing such matters) as she felt the public was entitled to know what was happening and why.

Public Comments:

Comments included:

-suggestions that the commission indicate to the council that they are open to a joint meeting.

-that the key protocol be explained fully by the city

-that answers be sought from the city as to why a budget was not provided for FY 2017

-it would be helpful if the city would provide technical assistance in the form of grant-writing

Adjournment:

Adkins moved to adjourn. Lease seconded. All ayes. Meeting was adjourned at 6:28 pm.