

**Notes**  
**Michigan Veterans' Memorial Park Commission (MVMPC)**  
**December 11, 2023 meeting**

Attendees: John Juarez, Lindell Holm, Andrew Cosgrove, Robert Price, and Dana Schafer

Absent: Danny Craig, Gregory Havrilcsak, Gary Quinn

Guests: None

- Park maintenance updates
  - Concrete repair around the Vietnam Memorial Wall was completed in early November; John shared photos of the area.
  - John will reach out to Jerry Keeder to inquire whether the joints in the area need to be filled.
- Approve October 16, 2023 meeting notes
  - Andrew Cosgrove motioned to approve the October 16, 2023 meeting notes; Lindell Holm seconded - all approved.
- Financial statement
  - Reviewed MVMP financial report; in good standing.
  - Jerry Keeder confirmed that glass purchase was for replacement glass globes for the ground lights that shine on different areas of the memorial which were damaged by vandals.
- Commission meeting schedule for 2024
  - All agreed to continue meetings every other month starting in February 2024.
- Donations brochure update
  - Dana will send brochures out in the next couple of weeks.
  - Andrew will get contact names for American Legion and VFW headquarters so we can see if they are interested in having brochures sent to them to distribute to the various posts.
  - Lindell can share donation brochure through MVAA social media.
  - Also mentioned possibly providing to VA facilities around the state.

- Michigan State Capitol Commission park proposal
  - An article from the Lansing State Journal in November was shared and provided details of proposal to develop a new park – Park Michigan.
  - Proposed site for the park would be located East of the Hall of Justice and West of the Ottawa Building.
  - Conceptual drawing provided in the article was shared.
  - This was brought to the attention of the Commission, as the proposed park appears to overlap on a portion of the Northeast side of the MVMP.
  - The article noted the concept is conceptual at this point and it may be years before any movement on development, as many steps need to take place.
  - Commission will continue to watch for updates on progress of this project.
  
- Vietnam Monument discussion
  - Update names on the wall and in the directory book.
    - John Juarez has reached out to his contact at the National Vietnam Memorial Foundation for the most up-to-date list and will complete a reconciliation with our list to see what updates we need on the wall at the MVMP.
    - The book is showing some wear from the weather; Commission will have additional discussion on repair/maintenance of the book.
  - Discuss bronze plates and glass strip on South side of Vietnam Memorial; they are starting to break apart from the harsh winter weather.
  - The plates on the wall are by county and the county name is listed by each plate on the wall.
    - There are plates in the concrete that list the counties also, and they are starting to look worn from the weather.
    - Commission will have additional discussion on potential options.
  
- Discuss events at MVMP
  - Andrew Cosgrove suggested we host at least one event per year at the Park to showcase the improvements to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall and attract visitors to the Park. Many are not aware that the MVMP and Michigan Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall exists.
    - This would also bring awareness to veterans that the Park is available for events they may want to host.
    - Lindell noted that DMVA may be willing to assist with sponsoring and/or participating in an event.
    - The Commission will continue to discuss at future meetings.

- Other topics discussed
  - Update - Michigan Society of Sons of the American Revolution (MISSAR) Plaque and Liberty Tree memorial.
    - Plaque is currently being manufactured and will be shipped to DTMB when complete.
    - MISSAR has asked DTMB to get the post set in the ground before the winter weather sets in and has sent instructions to the DTMB-Facilities team for post and plaque installation.
    - A dedication ceremony is planned for April 26, 2024.
  - Commission discussed trees in the Park that have died and will be removed.
    - John Juarez will talk to Jerry Keeder about plans for possibly replacing those trees.

The next MVMPC meeting is scheduled for **February 12, 2024 from 1:30 – 3:30pm.**