

## Michigan Veterans' Memorial Park (MVMP) Commission meeting notes June 21, 2021 meeting

Attendees: John Juarez, Lynn O'Brien, , Lindell Holm, Dana Schafer

Absent: Andrew Cosgrove, Danny Craig, Jim Dunn, Gary Quinn

Guests: Jerry Keeder and Brent West, DTMB-Building Operations

Richard Thelen, Barbara Thelen, Steve Hammond, Victoria Lischalk

1. Approve June 15, 2020 meeting notes (All)
  - Did not have quorum – tabled until next meeting.
2. Future monuments-proposals (John Juarez)

### U.S.S. Indianapolis

- Richard Thelen, WWII Veteran-U.S.S. Indianapolis survivor, Steve Hammond, WWII Veteran, Barbara Thelen (Richard Thelen's daughter), Victoria Lischalk, Quartermaster for VFW Post 701 were present to share their proposal for the U.S.S Indianapolis monument they would like to have constructed in the MVMP.
- They have been working on the proposal for 5 years.
- He shared that there are only 5 survivors of the U.S.S. Indianapolis left in the country.
- Of the 1,197 crew on board the ship, 98 were from Michigan and there were only 27 survivors; Mr. Thelen is the last survivor in Michigan.
- Victoria Lischalk shared that VFW has a 501c3 in place now, so they can begin fundraising, and they are hoping to have sufficient funds by the time the proposal is approved by the Commission/State of Michigan.
- The proposal includes 2 memorial stones – 1 to tell the story and 1 listing names of all crew members from Michigan.
- She shared their draft proposal with estimated cost to build the monument and noted that any funds raised above the cost of the memorial will be dedicated to the Wilbur "Chuck" Gwinn Memorial Scholarship. Mr. Gwinn is the pilot that first spotted the survivors of the U.S.S. Indianapolis in the water, initiating the rescue.
- John Juarez noted that the Monument Application Process has been through the approval process at the State, and the final application packet will be posted on the MVMP website in the next couple of weeks. Victoria will start work on the final submission of the proposal as soon as the final packet is available online.
- Mr. Thelen expressed his appreciation to the State of Michigan for considering this memorial, as there are memorials in 5 other states.

### Revolutionary War Patriots

- John Juarez was contacted by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) (Debbie Blaski) with a proposal to place a plaque at the MVMP.
- DAR has a mandate to have a plaque in every state and would like to unveil a plaque at the MVMP on 4-22-22.
- The proposed plaque would be 30"x30" and mounted on a post.

- John noted that the Monument Application Process does not currently have guidelines for plaques; this is something the Commission will need to work on developing as part of the process if it is agreed to allow plaques in the MVMP.
- John will share the proposal from the DAR with the Commission and circle back with Debbie Blaski.

3. MVMP Monument Application Process (John Juarez)

Fee Schedule created (Dana Schafer)

- A Fee Schedule has been created, which outlines some of the fees associated with the donation of a monument to the MVMP. These fees are covered in the Monument Application – this document provides a high-level overview for quick reference.
- This will be added to the Monument Application packet as an informational handout.

Distribution of Monument Application Process (John Juarez)

- Prior to the pandemic, the MVMPC did receive the required approvals of the Monument Application Process guidelines.
- The packet is currently in DRAFT form on the MVMPC website under the meeting notes; the group agreed to post as FINAL on the website so we can begin accepting applications.
- Dana will ask the website administrator to add a tab to the site “Monument/Memorial Proposals” and have the final packet added.

4. Concrete repair – Vietnam Veterans Memorial Walkway (Jerry Keeder/Brent West)

- Jerry Keeder provided an update on current condition – 3 or 4 concrete pads are cracked and past the point of being able to repair with joint calk.
- On the South side of the wall, were able to use Quick Crete and do patchwork repairs. Will continue with temporary patch repair until a longer-term plan is approved by the Commission.
- The Commission will continue to work with DTMB-Facilities to look at a long-term solution.
  - i. Based on an old quote, the cost to do a complete, long-term, repair of the entire South side of the Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial would be in the range of \$200,000-\$300,000.

5. Update on potential security camera for MVMP (Jerry Keeder)

- DTMB-Facilities study determined the rooftop of the Hall of Justice (HOJ) was the best location to obtain adequate security coverage of the MVMP.
- HOJ has their own server system that we can tie into.
- There would be no monthly service fees.
- MVMP would only be charged for cost of camera equipment, installation, and initial tie in by Honeywell.

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the MVMP and HOJ will need to be in place if we move forward with installing the camera.
  - The draft MOU was shared with the Commission (10-year term).
  - John would like to have the Commission vote on this proposal in the next week to get approval before the cost goes up. There have been significant price increases over the past year.
  - Dana will send quote for the camera and installation, along with the draft MOU to the Commissioners for review and vote for approval to move forward with installing a security camera for the Park.
6. Update on additional sign on SE corner of MVMP (John Juarez/Jerry Keeder/Brent West)
- John shared the mockup design and quote for the proposed wayfinding sign for the SE corner of the Park.
  - As with the security camera proposal, would like the Commission to vote and approve the sign to avoid future price increases.
  - Dana will send the quote and draft design to the Commissioners for review and vote for approval to move forward with fabrication and installation of the sign.
7. Update on street signage to the MVMP (Jerry Keeder/Joel Gordon)
- Jerry Keeder shared that the City is in process of changing some of the one-way streets to two-way streets (Pine & Walnut); this will impact directional signage. These streets changes are under City authority. Other potential street changes in the vicinity of the MVMP are under MDOT authority and, if changes take place, would also impact directional signs for the Park.
  - Therefore, this is currently on hold until street changes are complete.
8. Financial statement (John Juarez)
- John shared MVMP Financial Report. Fund is in good standing to allow addition of security camera and sign on SE corner of Park, if approved by Commission.
9. Recognizing Michigan's Vietnam Veterans  
Memorial Bricks
- John noted that we can get additional bricks.
  - For those families that would like to add names of those not killed in action, they could request to donate a brick.
  - This would allow them to recognize their family member.
10. Donations (John Juarez)  
MVMP Donation page on MVMPC website
- Dana/John are working with website administrator to see if we can have a donation page added to the MVMPC website.
- Retired flags – future action (All)
- Proposing that we allow citizens to purchase flags previously flown over the MVMP as a donation to the Park.

11. Update on Commissioner terms (John Juarez)

- John shared that he has recently reached out to Governor's Office regarding appointments to the MVMP Commission.
- All who are currently serving on the Commission can continue to serve; Governor's Office will conduct reappointments in the next 2 weeks.
- If a Commissioner was appointed or re-appointed by the previous Governor, will likely have to fill out required forms for reappointment.

12. Assignments

Schedule sub-committee meetings

- This topic was tabled, due to lack of time.

13. Other topics

- Voting results: The Commission voted, via email, on proposals for the security camera, MOU for security camera, and sign for SE corner of the Park. **All 3 proposals were approved.**

The next MVMP meeting is scheduled for **August 16, 2021 from 10:00am-Noon.**