

Minutes of March 11, 2008

Veterans' Memorial Cemetery Association Meeting

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Opening Ceremonies by: Gary Laweryson (Moment of silence & Pledge Allegiance to the Flag)

Call to Order and Roll Call of Members: The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. Roll Call was taken as follows: **Present** –Gary Laweryson, Glenda Knowlan, Arthur Roy, Mike Clark, David Richmond, Peter Ogden, Kelley Wynne, Marvin Woodbury, Charles Bennett
Excused – Kenny Ware, William Henshaw, Don Simoneau, General Libby **Unexcused**
Absence –

Minutes December 2007: *Motion made, seconded and passed to accept minutes of December 2007 meeting.*

Treasurer's Report: Mike Clark

Mike Clark handed out and reviewed the Annual and Quarterly Reports.

He gave an overview of all of the investments and donations. He stated that the investments are making almost as much as the donations. Donations are lower this year than last.

Motion made, accepted and passed to accept the Treasurers Report

Auditing Committee: Kelley Wynne and Marvin Woodbury went over the Treasurer's books. Every thing was in order and all numbers matched.

Motion made, seconded and passed to accept the findings of the Audit Committee.

Comments - General Libby:

Superintendent's Report: Dave Richmond

Project updates:

- 1 **Headstone lifting project Civic Center Drive Cemetery:** Ninety percent of the project is complete. Two different procedures have been tried using varied materials and will be checked in the spring to see which one was most effective.
2. **Upright headstones (Mt Vernon Road only):** Sections A & B have been opened for burials utilizing the upright Marble headstones. Dave will try to have a few upright stones installed by Memorial Day so people can see them. The installation of the majority of uprights will begin in June.
3. **Crypt Roof Civic Center:** The Civic Center Drive crypt roof has been replaced and the project is complete.

4. **Mt. Vernon Road Paving Project:** Ferriuolo Corp. has placed one layer of pavement on the Mt. Vernon Road Walkway and will apply the final layer in the spring.
5. **Avenue of Flags Mt. Vernon:** The Elks Club has raised enough money for an avenue of flags. This will be done in the spring.
6. **Furnace repairs:** The furnace in the chapel had numerous problems and code violations. The existing boiler has been replaced and all violations have been corrected.
7. **Organization donation recognition:** There was much discussion regarding how to recognize donors' and make it appealing enough so they would be willing to make a sizable donation. Dave's suggested a brass book similar to the one they have in Caribou. It would be in the Administration office and contain the names of those who have made significant donations to the cemetery Association.

Granite Wall Engraving Recognition Logo:

THE NAMES OF THOSE INTERRED AT THIS CEMETERY ARE ENGRAVED ON THE GRANITE WALL ALPHABETICALLY BY YEAR, COURTESY OF THE VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY ASSOCIATION.

Motion made, accepted and passed to accept the above logo in recognition of the Veterans Memorial Cemetery Association for providing the funds for the engraving of names on the Granite Wall directories.

Additional niches in Caribou: Additional niches have been added in Caribou. The Committee in Caribou raised \$100,000 for the new niches which left the cost to the State \$30,000.

Bureau Director: Peter Ogden

Items discussed with the Governor:

Peter met with the Governor and is confident that he doesn't want to make large cuts to the cemetery. There will be cuts, but not on a large scale. The department has lost the mechanic position that was approved by Legislature last year. The position was vacant so no one will be relieved of their duties.

Peter presented his idea of having a niche built at Civic Center Drive and the Springvale cemeteries. He stated that the Governor was very receptive to the idea. They are virtually maintenance free and a very cost effective. Families prefer them and it would open up Civic Center Drive for burials, which many veterans and their families prefer.

Peter's is looking at long term solutions to make the operations of the cemeteries more efficient and cost effective for the future. He feels that it would save the state millions of dollars over the next 50 year period.

Springvale Cemetery: Peter informed members that the Springvale cemetery project is going forward and should be opening in September 2009. The only burials that would take place that first year would be niche burials if the state will front the money to have one built.

Trust fund: Peter would like to start a trust fund for the future. The cemetery would have access to the interest, but the fund itself would be untouchable. This would create a long term funding solution in an emergency situation where money was needed. The use of those funds would have to be approved by a judge.

Portland Office versus VFA funds:

Peter also discussed the possibility of re-opening the Portland office instead of requesting VFA funds. A traveling VSO position would be created to assist veterans with claims. This would bring millions of dollars into the state each year.

Chairman: Gary Laweryson

In the previous meeting Marvin had suggested that we get other organizations and companies to donate funds. Gary discussed this at length.

He feels that the Association needs to do something significant to show the public what they do, (something that stands out) so folks will make more donations.

Gary asked member to come up with a project they would like to do at the cemetery and bring it to the next meeting. Once a project has been chosen and approved by the cemetery a fund raising committee can be appointed for that specific project.

Fund Raising: Marvin Woodbury

Marvin made many suggestions regarding ways to raise funds. He questioned idea that was discussed at the previous meeting which would have allowed the names of donors to be placed on the wall for recognition purposes. Most members felt it would be tacky and Dave advised that no advertisements should be on the wall with the names of the deceased.

Vice Chairman's Report: Kenny Ware

New Business

Marvin Woodbury representing the DAV and Charles Bennett representing the American Legion were in attendance and interested in becoming active members of the Association. They were welcomed by members.

Motion made, seconded and passed to accept Marvin Woodbury and Charles Bennett as new members.

Unfinished Business:

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Motion made, seconded and passed to adjourn meeting.

ATTENTION!!! NEXT MEETING will be held JUNE 17TH at 9 a.m. at the VFW Hall on the Leighton Road. The Chairman will be unavailable on the 10th.

