

Minutes of Somersworth Veterans Park Commission Meeting
Executive Conference Room
August 13, 2018 4:00pm

Committee members present: Councilor Martin Dumont, Chairman
Councilor Richard Michaud, Vice Chairman
Cathy Burns
Brian McKay
Bill Wenners
John Gregoire
Jenne Holmes
Richard A. Gagnon
Eric Mommsen
Claudette Bayko

Excused absent: Paul Spendley
Doreen Cole

Administration present: Scott Smith, Deputy Manager, Finance Director
Bob Belmore, City Manager

Chairman Dumont called the meeting to order at 3:58pm
New member to the commission Brian McKay was introduced.

Minutes of the last meeting were reviewed, Richard Michaud made a motion to accept the minutes as written, Jenne Holmes second the motion. Motion was passed unanimously by hand vote.

Mr. Smith explained how City sponsored donations would be straight forwarded to City Hall escrow account to finance department, if donation by credit card a fee will still be charged, the city does not have a budget to absorb credit card fees. Discussion ensued that donations done on line with the credit card fee may deter people from possibly donating. It was brought up that Dover in the selling of their bricks, people paid directly to the Polar Company who was hired to do the bricks avoiding a credit card fee.

Chairman Dumont clarified that at this time this commission is representing the Veterans Memorial within Stein Park that is monuments, walkways, flags as a foundation to be built upon in the future, this is to big of an Endeavour to do it all at once. The Mayor has already sent letters to companies to invite them to support this project. There were further discussions and questions from committee members. Mr. Belmore said currently no commitment from City Council just a conceptual project to be done in phases. Question if self funded or city monies, CIP (capital improvement plan) budget have a rolling 6 year plan. Cost of the Dover veterans' park was reviewed, how much was raised for the project through donations, benches and bricks and how much was CIP.

The Mayor & Mr. Belmore met last Thursday with senator waters and Senator Hassen's staff to look into grant funds for this project. Chairman Dumont said at this point we are looking for corporate sponsors such as BAE and GE; we need to create a nice design, develop a letter of appeal to corporations. Remember at this time we have no budget for mailings, cost of paper, copying and mailing. Live contacts can have better responses; reach out to people who have contacts. Richard Gagnon reported that he has approached Pratt & Whitney (his employer) regards support and matching funds, he gave Chairman Dumont his contact information to follow up further. Brian McKay will reach out to his contacts with various Veterans organizations. Cathy Burns will check with PNSY in regards to support and also the cost of their BOSE year around audio/mic system.

Eric Mommsen made a motion to name our Veterans Park: Somersworth Veterans Park, Richard Gagnon second the motion, Motion was passed unanimously by hand vote.

Paul Spendley's detailed notes and synopsis of our park comparing with the Dover Park were reviewed by all present.

Chairman Dumont said between now and our next meeting, Chairman Dumont, Cathy Burns and Jenne Holmes will work on a ruff draft of design/picture with letter of appeal for funds. Chairman Dumont will reach out foe civil engineers regards looking at our needs for site work/excavation. Bill Wenners will check on sizes of CWV monuments and he will forward to chairman Dumont the application that CWV uses for the purchase of bricks. Richard Michaud will check into the cost of the monument from Ogunquit's representing all five branches of service.

Our next meeting will be Monday, September 10, 2018 4:00pm at Stein Park, for site review, if pouring rain meeting will be held in the executive conference room.

Motion to adjourn was made by Richard Michaud, second by Jenne Holmes, passed unanimously by hand vote at 4:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudette Bayko, committee member