

Minutes of Somersworth Veterans Park Commission Meeting
Executive Meeting Room, City Hall
Monday, November 18, 2019

Committee Members present: Martin Dumont, Chairman, Richard Michaud, Vice Chairman, Richard A. Gagnon, Paul Spendley, and Claudette Bayko

Excused Committee members: Cathy Burns, Raymond Doyon

Administration present: Robert Belmore, City Manager, Michael Bobinsky, Director of Public Works, Shanna Saunders, Development Director, Scott Smith, Assistant Deputy Manager.

Meeting called to order at 4:58pm by Chairman Dumont, motion was made to accept the minutes of the meeting held on September 20, 2019 as written and reviewed by Richard Gagnon, seconded by Claudette Bayko, motion passed unanimously by hand vote.

City Manager Belmore distributed project design updates received from Ironwood Design Group, Jen Martel per follow up of a conference call with Jen Martel, Robert Belmore, Scott Smith and Michael Bobinsky. The design was presented by Robert Belmore and was reviewed and discussed. The project as designed is ready to go out to bid, by the end of January select a bidder and then construction time line 2 – 3 months for actual construction taking into account weather constraints of March and April. The Coast bus stop has been moved from the Veterans Park site. The Committee date for opening of the Veterans Park presentation event is Veterans Day 2020.

Cost estimated for the project is \$153,000.00 excluding what has already been spent; council passed a resolution to support the difference of Fund Raising and actual cost. Suggestion is to push the sale of the 800 4”x 8” bricks prior to construction, to alleviate having to raise and reset each brick, cost effective and eliminates unnecessary displacement.

The project as designed has 800 4”x 8” donor bricks, \$50 each, 2 benches, \$1,500 each, 16 granite pavers 1ft x 2ft, \$200 each. Mr. Belmore has reached out to the Dover Company, Gary Bannon in regards to how Dover proceeded with the bricks, cost, payment, engraving. Dover’s 4x8 bricks have three lines, first line full name (no nick names) second line military rank and third line years of service or name of conflict.

Mr. Belmore and Chairman Dumont reported about Donations and pledges to this point, \$4,500.00 in hand and approximately another \$12,000.00 in pledges. It was discussed that these donors should be recognized on our city’s web site and given photo opportunities with the Mayor; this will also get the word out about the project, fundraising and the donor bricks, benches and pavers. We have approximately 9 businesses and fraternal organizations contributors at this time. Paul Spendley suggested that we reach out to newspapers to print an article about this project; he volunteered to write up an article and present it to Chairman Dumont for review and submission.

Mr. Belmore and Chairman Dumont will be meeting with the city finance committee to present the Veterans Park project and discuss the price of the sale of donor bricks, benches and pavers and receive their authorization. Mr. Belmore will coordinate the kick off campaign for the sale of the donor bricks.

Chairman Dumont will set the date & time of our next committee meeting after he meets with the city finance committee.

Vice Chairman Michaud made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Paul Spendley, passed unanimously by hand vote, meeting adjourn at 5:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Claudette Bayko, committee member

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