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Veteran's Memorial Commission

Proceedings by Authority

State of New York:

City of Jamestown : ss:

Mayor's Conference Room

The regular meeting of the Veteran's Memorial Commission of the City of Jamestown, New York was held on Monday, April 11, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

Members Present: Chairman Ronald Cotten, Members, Tom Abbott, Russell E. Diethrick, Jr., Carolyn Volk, George Spitale, William J. Servis

Members Absent: Barclay Wellman and Clyde Card

Others Present: Rod Drake, Habiterra Associates

Chairman Cotten called the meeting to order.

Ms. Volk motioned to approve the minutes from the March meeting.

Mr. Spitale seconded the motion.

Carried

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Cotten: The balance at December 31st was \$7,705.00. The balance at the present time is \$1,071.24. You know what happened?

Ms. Patti: No. He just said Veteran Financial balance here.

Mr. Cotten: I'm going from something different. This is from Community Foundation. I take that back – I'm sorry.

Ms. Volk: No. I'm looking at the minutes and it says we have \$1,297.00.

Mr. Cotten: Okay. Apparently there's been an expenditure. As much as I have questions on that and we all do, I recommend we table action on the Financial Report until the next meeting until we can find out.

Mr. Diethrick moved to table action on the financial report.

Mr. Cotten: Before we move to Veteran's Memorial Park, George has something.

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THIRD STREET BRIDGE RENAMING

Mr. Spitale: Sen. Young wanted to rename the Third Street Bridge the Veteran's Memorial Bridge. I think it's a good idea being that we have the Veteran's Administration Building on the end of the bridge and that would follow right through and if you follow that road, you'd be in our new park. So everything's going to fall in place. I have to present it to the Council. I don't think there's a problem with that.

Mr. Cotten: Are they looking for action from us George or is that just for information?

Mr. Spitale: No, you guys could recommend it and then when I present it, then I've got your support.

Mr. Cotten: Do you recommend that?

Mr. Spitale: Yes I do.

Ms. Volk motioned to accept the renaming of the Third Street Bridge to the Veteran's Memorial Bridge.

Mr. Servis seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Mr. Abbott: Didn't the recruiters move out of the Federal Building?

Mr. Cotten: Yes. Now they're over at the BWB Center.

VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARK

Mr. Cotten: You all have a rendering. Just as a reminder, when we discussed this at our last meeting, the full sized posters I'm going to take around to raise funds – it's over there. But I want to point out to everybody on this – this is just a rendering. There's some things on here that you might see, you left off the lights for the flagpole and things like that. What I'm trying to do is to get away from doing the little things that we don't know how much we're doing until we raise the money. What I'm trying for is the concept to get out there to raise the money and that's what I'm going to be doing with this. I've arranged through Laurie to get a meeting with the Mayor Thursday this week because I need to get it going through his office. Then I'm going to start raising the money. I'll be calling some of you or all of you as the thing goes on as we begin

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raising the money for your help at different points in time. Anybody got any comments on what I'm just saying? I want to get it going – I want to get away from having a lot of meetings and get going raising money.

Mr. Abbott: Jim sent a note and I think you're absolutely right because the money's got to come first. I really think that's the way to go.

Mr. Spitale: It'd be nice if the City borrowed the funds and then we pay it back.

Mr. Cotten: If you knew somebody on Council that maybe could...but I will meet with the Mayor on Thursday is to get going raising money. First thing I want to do is I want to get into The Post-Journal and get the article regarding what we're doing in doing the Park over there, but I've got to make sure that it's through the Mayor's Office because there may be some people in the City who are unaware that this is happening so that information needs to come from him and not from us. Then as the word gets out then hopefully I'm going to get some speaking engagements to different organizations – other people that came to support the...remember the 59 project for Soldier's Circle? I know then they'll become aware of it. I'm going to be making contact with some people who I think can help us financially and hopefully. Then as we get the money coming in, what I'm hoping for and everybody agrees with it, I can't see not, is to begin the project as we get money in that we can get the first two circles and then work on getting the money for the third circle, but to get the thing going and get it as a work in progress so that as we begin working on this, that other people that want to donate or companies or corporations, foundations can see that we are doing something – then we're ready to keep going on it. That's what I'd like to see unless somebody's got a different approach on it.

Mr. Spitale: Have you talked to that organization you were talking about?

Mr. Cotten: I haven't yet. I've got feelers out for that one, somebody who was on the inside that I'm waiting for them to get back to me George.

Mr. Spitale: That sounds good if you can do that.

Mr. Cotten: Yes – if we can do that – it's wonderful.

Mr. Spitale: Then maybe you can move all this stuff over there.

Mr. Cotten: Yes. That would be ideal. And again, I don't want to get tied up on – well, are the benches right, or are the planters right, or the

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monuments right? Let's just get going on the money and as we can get these things going, then get this thing started and break ground and show the City and show everybody around...

Mr. Spitale: Jeff's got the breakdown now, doesn't he, on the cost?

Mr. Cotten: Yes.

Mr. Spitale: Okay.

Mr. Cotten: Not as we're talking about everything – we just kind of “off the cuff” budgeted \$250,000 as a goal figure.

Mr. Spitale: Right.

Mr. Cotten: I'm going to shoot for more.

Mr. Spitale: You know what I was looking at? Kind of neat – I was looking through my mother and father's...when they were people on leave...and they got...sitting on a park bench...a person...being it's a park...I see pictures of their friends and that and a guy's home on leave and he's sitting with his girlfriend...it's really neat. I mean being it's a park, I thought maybe down the road, we could do something like that. My mother's got about 8,000 pictures.

Mr. Cotten: Yes - as we get going on this, I'd love to make it just a beautiful park that we all can be proud of. Russ, you got anything?

Mr. Spitale: What about the flags on the pole?

Mr. Drake: There's only one flagpole.

Mr. Spitale: No. No. I mean the Veteran's Park – those long ones...that go on the street lights.

Mr. Drake: Oh sure. The banners. Yes, sure. I don't know if there's period lighting...

Mr. Spitale: But I'd like to have them...I don't want them blue like the ones coming in the City that nobody can see. I'd like to have red, white and blue Veteran's Park.

Mr. Drake: Yes, it could be. I don't know if there's period light. I can't remember what the lighting is along the road here.

Mr. Spitale: They've got the regular posts there.

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- Mr. Drake: Okay.
- Mr. Spitale: Just around that front part there...
- Mr. Cotten: As we get into money though, then we can start talking about the different banners and different things.
- Mr. Spitale: Well, I'd like...if you come in from North Main and you see those signs, you can't even tell if it's Jamestown – it's this big, and you've got to have bionic eyes.
- Mr. Cotten: Carolyn – questions, comments? Again, I don't want to get into specifics on what we're doing there until we get the money. I'm just trying to get this thing moving.
- Ms. Volk: Yes. I agree with you Ron – get your money and then start talking about your specifics.
- Mr. Cotten: At least we have a concept and an idea in which we are headed anyway and then as we get the money and we can say “okay, we've got enough to really concentrate on this first circle,” and then move to the second.
- Mr. Spitale: I like what they did with the stamped bricks that they have – you know, the other bricks in between like that – breaking it up a little bit. I like that.
- Mr. Cotten: Yes.
- Mr. Drake???: You've got to have an expansion joint in there someplace.
- Mr. Spitale: Yes. I like that better.
- Mr. Cotten: Silent Bill – way down there...
- Mr. Servis: We've got to put a light on that flag.
- Mr. Cotten: I agree. It's like I said, I noticed that wasn't on there – it's got to be on there.
- Mr. Servis: I see the period lights, but they're a little bit far away from the flag.
- Mr. Cotten: There's got to be one on this side and one on this side to shine up on the flag pole.

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Ms. Volk: Yes – I know what you mean – they’ve got to lay the line in there first. I do have a little question. The little dots are the fence – right?

Mr. Drake: Yes.

Ms. Volk: Okay.

Mr. Spitale: Well, they’re going to be like a chain there?

Mr. Drake: Yes.

Mr. Servis: You don’t want to put anything down in front of there, somebody’s going to get hurt and then you’re liable so you’re better off...

Mr. Spitale: Yes – it’s a chain like this, the post and then they’re ...

Mr. Servis: ...and somebody will trip over it, but...

Mr. Spitale: Well, you can have the flower beds in between so...in the front...

Ms. Volk: I thought when we were talking about a fence, we were talking about something so that the kids wouldn’t be getting on there with their skateboards and things.

Mr. Cotten: That’s what the hope is.

Mr. Drake: Well, I’ve got to tell you that there’s no way to keep them off.

Mr. Spitale: Unless we put electric on it and barbed wire...you’re right on that point because if you go down the square there, by the River Walk there, they’ve been going on the...they’ve got a plastic covering on the picnic table – they’ve been skateboarding on there. The ice rink – they’ve been skateboarding on the statutes and on the bench there. It’s worn right down.

Mr. Cotten: Anything else Bill?

Mr. Servis: No. That’s it. I think the thing looks pretty good. I’ll talk to Barry Cardinale who works for Gebbie Foundation and see what he can come up with. I don’t know if Gebbie’s going outside the City limits...well, this isn’t outside the City, but...

Mr. Cotten: No. This is in town.

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Mr. Servis: ...right downtown, but I'll ask him anyway just to see.

Mr. Cotten: Sure.

Mr. Spitale: Russ's got a good point. They won't be skating on the rough surface.

Mr. Cotten: Yes – it'd be a little bit harder. Tom –

Mr. Abbott: I'm fine with it.

Mr. Cotten: Okay.

Mr. Spitale: These are all the existing trees that are here or all some of them...

Mr. Drake: Most of them are the existing trees – actually had to remove a couple of them because they're...

Mr. Servis: ...because they're right in the middle.

Mr. Spitale: Okay. There's a culvert under there now when you come off of Logan...

Mr. Drake: Only you would know that.

Mr. Servis: He put it in.

Mr. Spitale: You've got a main gas line right here and then there's a culvert – a big culvert, so I don't know if we have to move it back.

Mr. Abbott: On second thought – I do have a thought. A statement was made in the notes about maintenance of the Park. I can see that probably no maintenance to the trees or these other things, but what about the flowers and stuff – who's going to maintain that?

Mr. Spitale: Parks Department – right now if you go into the other one over there – they plant.

Mr. Servis: ...the high school kids wanted to do this, but because of the liability, they won't let them do it because of the liability, they can't do it so the Parks Department has to maintain it.

Mr. Cotten: After this is built, the maintenance, Tom, of the flagpole, the cannon and the monuments remains the responsibility of this Commission.

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- Mr. Spitale: I think we're responsible for buying the flowers after...
- Mr. Servis: It's got to be up to the Parks Department to take care of that.
- Mr. Drake: So we're raising money for the endowment too for that?
- Mr. Cotten: I'm going for everything I can go for.
- Mr. Drake: I mean for maintenance. I don't know if that's a requirement by the City.
- Mr. Cotten: It will be a continuing obligation of this Commission to get that money every year.
- Mr. Spitale: Well, I know the Parks had maintained that other one. They cut the lawn, they plant the flowers, Russ would know more about that.
- Mr. Cotten: But also too as an addition, but the City's offering this Veteran's Park for sale.
- Mr. Spitale: So if we get any money, it's
- Mr. Cotten: It's going to come to this Commission and hopefully we'll have enough money to build the Park and that money we can put in our trust and maintain the monuments. That's what I'm hoping for.
- Mr. Servis: You're just going to have them donate the money to the Veteran's Memorial Commission then until we get ready?
- Mr. Cotten: That's right. So, I'm meeting with the Mayor Thursday morning. I anticipate there'll be something the following week and I'm going to get started raising the money. Unless you feel it necessary, I don't want to set another meeting because if there's nothing to report, there's no sense in dragging everybody out to a meeting. I'm going to raise some money with your permission I'll get notice sent out to everybody when there's money to call another meeting and we'll get going. We'll start with Phase I and we'll break ground over there and get whatever we can get going.
- Mr. Spitale: Even if we get this brickwork stuff out of the way first...
- Mr. Cotten: So we're agreed then – I'll go do this and give you a call as I get the fundraising going if I need any of you to show up for some things for support, I'll give you a call; other than that, we'll set no

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meeting – it'll be when I get something we'll get notice sent out and...

Mr. Spitale: Now what's the name of that other Veterans place?

Mr. Cotten: Where?

Mr. Spitale: That runs over...

Mr. Cotten: Chautauqua Lake? That's called Chautauqua County Veteran's Memorial Bridge.

Mr. Spitale: So this is...just the Veteran's Memorial Bridge.

Mr. Cotten: Yes.

Mr. Abbott: This is City as opposed to County?

Mr. Cotten: Yes. This is a City bridge.

Mr. Servis: Sometime this month, I'm not sure when it is, if it's the 20th or not, but Cathy Young's planning to dedicate Rt. 62 down there as Veteran's Memorial Highway...

Mr. Drake: Is she going to fund the signage?

Mr. Spitale: We'll find out.

Mr. Servis: It's the 20th at 10:00 A.M.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

James N. Olson
Director of Financial Services/City Clerk