

March 6, 2006

Veteran's Memorial Commission

Proceedings by Authority

State of New York,
City of Jamestown, ss:
Mayor's Conference Room

A regular meeting of the Veteran's Memorial Commission of the City of Jamestown, New York was held on Monday, March 6, 2006 at 5:15 p.m.

Members Present: Russell E. Diethrick, John R. Allen, Evelyn S. Adams, Lynda Albert, Craig W. Young, William J. Servis, Barclay O. Wellman and Clyde Card

Members Absent: Chairman Dave Shepherd

Others Present: Director of Financial Services/City Clerk James N. Olson, Matt Hanley, Al Cala

Clyde Card called the meeting to order.

Mr. Card asked for the minutes of the last meeting, which have not yet been completed. With the consent of the group, he stated they would dispense with approval of the minutes from the last meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| CRCF pass-through account: | \$ 4,570.00 |
| CRCF endowment: | \$ 8,135.00 |
| NYS Grant | \$39,111.05 |

(Mr. Olson stated: we do not have that money – we have to voucher the State for it)

Mr. Card stated this amount is less \$2,000 +/- for the veterans' genealogical data base (so that Evelyn Adams' project downstairs can actually have the data base on line and do all of the entry work downstairs. They were supposed to get a breakdown of the actual costs and all, but we told them no more than \$2,000)

STATUS OF WEB SITE:

Matt Hanley: I talked with Brad Adams just as late as today. Last time I told you at the last meeting that the web site was about 2.5 GB, which is a pretty huge web site. The typical web site for hosting is around 100 MB, which would make this site about 25 times bigger than the usual web site. The reason for that is Brad found some video files that apparently are accompanying the web site. Those video files, if you did not include those video files, the data base and the web site would only be 19 MB, which would be about 1/5 of the size of a typical hosting package. So, with both things in mind, I talked to him about some hosting options. The one, if you were to just go with the data base and the pictures and search engine that you have now, it would be for 100 MB, it would be \$15.95, which is the standard packaging. If we go with the bigger 2.5 GB, we include all of the video that is in there and everything, he would have to tailor a package to the Veteran's Commission for that. It's the biggest web site that he would be handling and he has the storage of the web site on its own server, so basically, it has it's own server/hard drive over at eWINYS right now. But if you do the math - \$15.95 for 100 MB – there are a 1,000 MB in a GB – it's about \$400.00 a month for a 2.5 GB site. But, I don't think he's going to charge you that much. He was going to look into a hosting package that he would have to tailor or make for the Veteran's Commission. That includes the video that he found, he didn't

March 6, 2006

investigate as to what the video is, he wanted me to ask you what the video is and if you know what it is, and if you still want it on the site.

Mr. Card: The video is selected interviews of some veterans that was done at the VFW.

Mr. Hanley: OK.

Mr. Card: We were talking about their war time experiences, and things of that nature, their military experience and ...

Mr. Hanley: I take it that it was quite a bit.

Mr. Card: Yes, it was quite a bit. There were guys that were upset because they didn't get to do it, and some guys did get to do it, and...

Mr. Servis: The guys that did do it, it cost them some money.

Mr. Card: It was nominal, I know that.

Matt Hanley: I have some suggestions, and I'm sure Brad would have some suggestions too, of maybe not having all of the video available all at once, maybe switching out some of the video every couple of weeks, making it look like the veteran's site is kind of, like any other web site that is always developing and always changing. That's an idea to throw out. The other figure is that luckily, it's not the worse case scenario, of bringing this web site back. Before I said that Brad was having some problems because of the programming language that was used, they were able to crack the language that was used, and he does actually have the site up and hosted on the server. What I'm doing, is I'm trying to get the Chautauqua County Veteran's Memorial Commission (CCVMC) .com changed over so that eWI NYS can control it and update it like it should be, so that they have administrative control over it, but he's put in about 10 hours to bring the site back and they charge about \$75.00 an hour for the work that they do. He needs to get that CCVMC back in order to make the data base work. He has to have the domain working and live again. But those are some of the costs – like I said to defray actually hosting all of the video all at one time. I mean there might be some things you want to look at in rotating the video out so only a certain amount of it is on the site at a given time, I don't know, that's up to you.

John Allen: Could you click on it, and if you want to view the video – pay a certain amount of money?

Matt Hanley: Yes, you could certainly set it up that way – pay the plan, the capability is there. I don't know if that's something you would want to do.

Mr. Wellman: I have a question about the price. You said for the basic 100 MB without the video - \$15.95, per month.

Mr. Hanley: Like I said, a GB is 1000 MB, so I just took the \$15.95 and multiplied it by 25 to get the \$400.00...

Mr. Card: Also, I'm not sure that that film has ever been edited.

Mr. Hanley: Okay.

Mr. Card: So, you may be looking at raw footage of a guy sitting there for two hours talking – one guy – and another guy there for 15 minutes. We don't know what's in it.

March 6, 2006

Mr. Hanley: Okay. Brad wanted me to ask you if you would want him to take a look at that film. He wanted to ask permission – if you would mind him looking at that. He didn't know what the film was.

Mr. Card: I don't see a problem with that. Does anybody here see a problem with that? Tell him to take a look and see what it is.

Mr. Hanley: I'm not sure if he can do video editing, I mean, that may not be his thing...

Mr. Card: But, \$400 a month is beyond this Committee's capability to sustain.

Mr. Hanley: But, like I said, that's the full package.

Mr. Card: Okay.

Mr. Hanley: But for the site that's there now, and to run the data base – there's plenty of space in the basic \$15.95 package to do that, and then he said if you just wanted to go ahead and do that, and then we can start revisiting the video – I know that we have to still meet our May 31st deadline.

Mr. Card: Yes. Some of the web site stuff we can do out of the endowment.

Mr. Hanley: Editing that video, I mean you would probably have to have an outside source or something, or, you know they have the video works program over at the high school....

Mr. Card: I guess all we want him to confirm is it raw footage or is it the finished product...

Mr. Hanley: Okay. Alright.

Mr. Card: He doesn't have to look at it all, he'll be able to tell after two or three.

Mr. Hanley: Okay.

Mr. Card: We have to make a decision at the next meeting.

PROPOSAL FOR PLANTINGS AROUND MEMORIAL:

Mr. Card: Then, we have a proposal for plantings around the memorial.

Mr. Cala: We met with Dave Shepherd just about the day before he left for his rendezvous with his son. He outlined what approximately monies might be available and we looked over the plan we submitted last year to you folks, and we kind of narrowed it down to one plan here – I can briefly show you that. What I did, was sat down with Tony Purpura and we looked at different plant materials, and I still have the proposal bid that I received last year. I did call the people that submitted their bids to us and they adjusted the price for an increase. The site we're looking at we will have approximately seven planters and I'll show you what they look like. Rectangular planters would house the ornamental grasses, the perennials and the annuals that would be taken care of by the Parks Department. And, then, when we talked to Dave, we are selecting trees that would be planted in a large planter, and we ran into some problems with those. By the time you get a planter that is concrete and reinforced with steel, they weigh anywhere from 2,000 – 4,000 lbs, and when you put in the fill and the plants themselves, you are looking at another 2,000 lbs. So, we are right now, looking for the planter that is made by DAWN Enterprises and they have a plastic pot, and it's a round tank – maybe 70" x 30" tall, and we're

March 6, 2006

looking at the brown texture material. It's very durable, it's light – it weighs about 400 lbs as opposed to 2,000 lbs.. I have a picture of it here.

Mr. Card: Looks like granite, weighs like plastic.

Mr. Cala: Yes. And what we were looking at when we talked with Dave, is that there's seven of these planters and seven trees. The trees are able to stand a pretty harsh environment and we're hoping that the life expectancy would be 7-10 years. They're going to be small enough so that if one of them succumbs to the environment, we can replace it with a tree that would match basically the size of the ones that are out there.

Mr. Card: What trees are we looking at?

Mr. Cala: I have a list here. – wholesale – I have a hedge maple, it's a smaller maple, has a thicker-skinned leaf to it. There's an Aurora maple, flame maple, Hawthorne maple, which is a pretty rugged tree and produces a flower and a light berry and consistent in the wintertime and the birds clean it up during the early spring and into the summer so there's not a lot of mess out there. That is really what we're trying to avoid. There are many different Hawthorns that come in many different sizes and the leaf coloring is another eye-catching detail. There are several flowering crabapple trees. We are avoiding, obviously, the ones that produce fruit. There is a tree lilac that could withstand out there.

Mr. Allen: Most of them last 7-10 years?

Mr. Cala: Yes. What we're doing, is trying to get the biggest ones that they grow and we're talking about a tree with a diameter of about a 2" stock and 8-10' tall and over the years we'd clean up the lower branches to get them up out of your face.

Mr. Card: And you're contemplating getting one particular kind of tree for all of the tubs?

Mr. Cala: Not really. I thought probably a variety would be better because if one tree didn't make it, then they all may fail.

Mr. Card: We just put in trees at the Masonic Lodge on Hunt Road. We bought about 20 of them from Canada, four different colors to the leaves throughout the seasons. They're about 20' tall.

Mr. Purpura: London Pear tree.

Mr. Card: No, it's not a London Pear. We get them out of Canada. We have a whole row of them somewhere here in the City. It's not a poplar.

Mr. Cala: Yes, they're up on Lakeview Avenue. It's a type of Linden tree. Well, the problem with that is they might be too big. I'll look that up and find out. There's 100's of varieties. Then, the planters would have the ornamental grasses in them and the perennials and annuals. The grasses are pretty hardy, they can take a lot of drought. These are quick growing – up to 2-3 feet tall, some are 5-7 feet tall. Over the winter, as they dry, they look somewhat like hay and add some interest to that dark plaza out there. In the springtime they get cut down several inches, and then they will grow again. Some of them vary in color ranging from a dark green to a light green to a yellow. The seed pod on them looks like a little foxtail. Some of the planters we're looking at are decorative and the longer ones are about 96' long and made of concrete. We can get them in more of an earth tone green. With the plant materials, the freight, (Dave also suggested that we purchase a trash/cigarette butt receptacle), the freight cost is going to average about \$2,000, and to do the plantings, around \$16,000.00. Dave also asked about having someone from the Maintenance Department at City Hall do some watering on really dry days and

March 6, 2006

perhaps purchasing a hose bib for the plaza. I think there may be one already out there. Last year we had one of the existing redwood benches out there dismantled and finished and we're suggesting that you have the rest of the benches dismantled and refinished and they would be maintained.

Mr. Card: Do you have any idea of the cost?

Mr. Cala: That cost would be around \$8,000 to get them rehabbed.

Mr. Young: How about the newer stuff?

Mr. Cala: Probably triple that.

Mr. Purpura: Your plastic/metal benches now (which isn't the look we want) are right up there too.

Mr. Card: Do you think seven rectangular planters and seven tree tubs are enough to transform that gray mass into a garden-like atmosphere around the Memorial?

Mr. Cala: I think it's a good start. We're trying to pick materials that would be showing right away.

Mr. Card: In terms of what we have out there –it's blah – it's totally blah. If you get something living and green and alive, it just brings everything to life out there and are we putting in enough is my question.

Mr. Cala: I think, initially, you are. I think if we had an idea as to exactly how much money you had to spend, maybe we could go with a few more planters, a couple more trees, but that environment out there just really controls it.

Mr. Card: I know it's brutal.

Mr. Purpura: And the maintenance and upkeep, if we keep planting, planting, planting, I just don't have the men to do it.

Mr. Servis: With the breezes around here are we going to have to anchor these trees down?

Mr. Cala: The planter itself isn't going to move about, but the trees, when they get a little top-heavy, they can be secured with a pin and a wire called a deadman. Once the roots get established and fill that pot, it shouldn't move.

Mr. Card: OK. Anybody have any thoughts on the redwood benches?

Mr. Young: I recommend that we seriously think about refurbishing them.

Mr. Card: I mean, if you're going to turn it into a garden out there – redwood is the way to go.

Mr. Cala: Another thing too, what was neat about this, when we took the one apart, it came apart quite readily. They have a solid pin that goes through the legs with a nut and bolt at the end. If they show some wear and deterioration, we clean those up, and it came out great. That redwood is just a beautiful color.

Mr. Purpura: Another thing Al and I were talking about – if we do do the plantings that we are proposing right now, and we don't have the money to rehab the benches, or even put new

March 6, 2006

ones in, so all of a sudden the project looks blah from the word go, because we've still got the old benches out there. I'm looking at it that way too.

Mr. Cala: I was looking over last year's agenda and the year before that and we've talked about this before. In the agenda, it says "must be set and vouchered before May 31st." The landscape growers are taking orders right now for Spring planting. If you guys decide on this, we've got to decide on it and make that commitment so we can get these ordered, plus the planters themselves are 6-8 week order times. You're talking the first of May if we make a decision here, and then it's Tony's crew that has to plant them. I don't know if you want them in here by Memorial Day, that could be tough....

Mr. Card: So the \$15,000 cost on the seven tree tubs and trees and the seven rectangular planters with the grasses, the ferns, and all that, is there an extra \$2,000 for freight, or is that \$2,000 in the \$15,000?

Mr. Cala: That \$2,000 is in the \$15,000.00. And when I talked to a couple of the distributors here, that can vary, depending on the weight, and...

Mr. Card: And, then you want us to allocate another \$8,000 for the rehabbing of the benches?

Mr. Cala: Correct.

Mr. Card: So, that brings it to \$23,000 which is within our budgetary limits.

Mr. Cala: Yes.

Mr. Young: Are those firm numbers?

Mr. Cala: I would say no, but they're very close.

Mr. Card: The last one that did that to me was my wife, and I was broke for three months.

Mr. Cala: No, I would say that they're very close.

Mr. Young: Within that \$25,000.00?

Mr. Cala: I think within the \$25,000, we can get you what you want.

Mr. Card: So, how does the Committee feel?

Ms. Albert: Do the trees that you are looking at all have a canopy?

Mr. Cala: We did want to get more of a mushroom shape and because they are a compact tree they should be shaped like that.

Mr. Card: A motion should be in order to accept the proposal for the seven rectangular planters with grasses and shrubs, the seven tree tubs with a variety of trees in the seven, at an approximate total cost of \$15,000.00 and also to rehab the redwood benches at an approximate cost of \$8,000.00.

Mr. Cala: Did you also include the trash/cigarette receptacle?

Mr. Card: No. And....the accompanying receptacles with the redwood benches.

March 6, 2006

Mr. Cala: The redwood benches will stay on Tracy Plaza and not be moved to anywhere else in the City. We could put some plaques on the benches stating that the Committee paid for the refurbishing of the benches.

Mr. Diethrick made a motion for \$15,000 for the enhancement, planters and trees and \$8,000 for the refurbishing of the redwood benches and purchase of a receptacle.

Mr. Allen seconded the motion.

Carried: 8 ayes, 0 nays

Mr. Card: You can start placing the orders. That's the whole idea is to get rolling on it.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

James N. Olson
Director of Financial Services/City Clerk