

Bordentown City Veterans Memorial
Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2021
Meeting Called to order at 6:33pm

Stephanie Pecht called the meeting to order.

Stephanie informed the group that she had a copy of the Sunshine Law for everyone's review.

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Roll Call:

Committee Members: Chris Hofrichter, Stephanie Pecht, Bruce Throckmorton, Jim Brimmer, Marguerite Hellwich, JC Platt

Guests: Commissioner Joe Myers, Deputy Mayor John Brodowski

Stephanie suggested that we start outside of our agenda to accommodate our guests.

DM Brodowski explained that there is no line item in the City budget for the BCVM. Traditionally, the BCVM was, and still should, rely on the money within the trust account assigned to it. There is help available should our expenses exceed the trust account. John also explained that any repair or maintenance amount exceeding \$40,000 must go out for bid and \$6000 must get three estimates. If we determine that the repair will be used for more than 5 years the cost could be considered a City Capital Budget item and worked into the budget.

Commissioner Joe Myers told us that we can go to Peggy to get more information on how we can afford repair and maintenance costs. Comm. Myers also stated that the BCVMC can utilize the services for the City Engineer, Doug Johnson, from Remington & Vernick. The City will incur the costs of his services of soil assessment and repair strategy. We agreed to keep Grace in the loop of correspondence to insure continuity. Joe also informed us that the State of New Jersey DOT has made no new progress on the bridge archway repair. He also suggested that any historic railroad groups will probably assist in the fight to not have the bridge rebuilt vs. repair.

Stephanie asked if there was any way the City would consider moving the memorial to the city municipal property. Joe said this would not be an option because the City is very limited as to what the City can do at that new location because it is designated "protected land".

After the Commissioners were finished and had left the meeting, the regular agenda was followed.

Stephanie made a motion to approve the minutes from our December 15, 2020 meeting. Bruce seconded, all approved.

Stephanie presented the current financial report, new audit report, revised BCVMC financial SOP, and City financial memos and procedures recently adopted. The BCVMC financial SOP was tabled. The new procedure for reimbursement from the City for supplies was reviewed.

The recently ordered/installed pavers were reviewed. The Vaivada paver issue was discussed and a new procedure was reviewed. Stephanie will inform the City and Bowkers of the new communication trail. The D'Angelo Electric paver proof was shown to the committee in recognition for their repairs of the lighting free of charge.

The new military emblem plaque was discussed. Jim and Bruce had a concern about the future of the Space Force and should it still be included in the new plaque. Marguerite and Chris gave the opinion that the Space Force has been adopted, funded, has had its first anniversary, and is here to stay. Stephanie made a motion to approve the new proof and order it for installation, JC seconded, 5 members voted yes/1 member abstained, the motion was approved. Stephanie will inform Bowkers to go ahead with the new plaque order.

The Memorial repair list to be prepared by Jim and Bruce has been put on hold since we now have access to the City engineer.

The issue of relocating the 9/11 memorial along Veterans Way, and other military artifacts, was reviewed. After discussion, JC suggested that the 9/11 memorial be relocated to Hill Top Park. Stephanie made a motion to inform the City of our recommendation to move the 9/11 memorial to Hill Top Park. Bruce seconded. All approve. Stephanie will inform the City of the decision.

The old brochures were reviewed. The official address will be changed to City Hall and photos will replace some of the renderings. Stephanie will go to the UPS Store to have a proof created for our review for the next meeting.

Bruce created a letter to the Mayor and Commissioners to recommend Stephanie to be the new chairperson and Jim to be the new vice-chair. The letter was reviewed and will be sent. The letter was approved at our last meeting.

Bruce will reach out to Brian Murray about stepping into an Associate Member role to free up a Committee member spot.

Stephanie will have the UPS Store create the new 2021 Gala flyer.

The DBA has been notified that if the Cranberry Festival is allowed to happen then the BCVMC is interested to have a table.

Associate Membership and the vacant Committee spots (possibly 2) were discussed. Each committee member was asked to create a list for both types of positions for committee consideration.

During the open discussion Jim asked about snow removal at the Memorial. The committee decided that it would not be in the best interests of the Memorial itself if plows or shovels were used as it could damage parts of the Memorial. The snow will be left to melt.

It was discussed to get a bulk of bulbs for the Memorial. Stephanie made a motion for Bruce and Jim to purchase a case of bulbs. Chris seconded and all approved.

Stephanie made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Bruce seconded and all approve.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Stephanie Pecht