

October 24, 2023, 5 p.m.

Wilmington Veterans Memorial Park Meeting

Attendees: Mike Z., Water White, Richard Khachadorian, John Boyd, Todd Stewart, Alan Davis, Donna Moore, Janet Boyd, Christine Richter, Eric Craven with Craven's Design

Meeting was called to order.

Concerns regarding the design of the Memorial Park were addressed, specifically the stone wall to be placed between the engraved monuments. Eric said the stone wall serves a utility purpose since the land is not leveled. Also helps with ground and drainage issues. The stone wall will be a dry stacked wall.

The memorial stones proposed are: a welcome stone, two stones for World War II because of the large number of veterans, a stone for Vietnam, one for the Korean conflict, one for Desert Shield & Global War of Terror, and a stone for those killed in action. The Mark Dooley stone will be moved from the Old School Community Center to the new Memorial Park.

Next step will be the completion of construction documents and details to send out for bids. Documents will include the type of stone monuments to use and how the names of the veterans should be laid out on the stones.

Another topic discussed was the placement of a flagpole. The consensus was to place it behind the Memorial Park near the firehouse parking area, so as not to impede the view of the memorial stones. Eric will draw up some schematics to see how it would look. There is electricity nearby, so lighting the flag would not be an issue.

There was a discussion on whether the project could be completed in phases. Eric mentioned that it would not be cost effective to split the project into components/phases. Many said they would like to at least see some sort of initial start on the project this spring. Eric will see about splitting up the construction documents into phases.

Fundraising was the final topic discussed. Christine is working on the feasibility of creating a GoFundMe page. Janet is working with a graphic designer to create posters with information on how to donate. Todd will work on creating a direct mail letter to send out to Wilmington residents in the spring. There was also discussion about creating sponsorships. Christine and Walt will also investigate any grants or matching donations opportunities.

No date was selected for the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.