

Town of University Park

Report of Meeting

Veterans Memorial Design Advisory Committee

Thursday, March 13, 2014

7:30 p.m.

University Park Elementary School Media Center

1. Welcome and Introduction of the Committee - Stephen Cook, Chair

Mr. Stephen Cook, Chair introduced the present members of the Committee: Ms. Chris Garcia, Mr. Fred Werth, Ms. Mary Collins Baugher, Ms. Anna Mae Kobbe, Mr. Tiegh Thompson

2. History of the Project - Christine Garcia

Ms. Garcia gave a brief power point presentation on the history of the Veterans Memorial project. Many years ago residents talked about the need to develop a memorial for the town veterans. The project was first proposed in 2011 as a project for the University Park Historic Preservation Association which was later turned over to the Council Committee on Public Facilities and Services. Resolution (12-R-06) for a Veterans Memorial project was passed at a Town Council Meeting in September of 2012 and requires that the project be completed by October 2015.

3. Design Phases - Stephen Cook

Mr. Stephen Cook gave a power point presentation of the design phase of the project. The Committee used the following design metrics as a guide to come up with a sound concept: context, content, integration, humanism, innovation, aesthetics, sustainability, performance, story and representation. The cost, based on materials, could range from \$50,000 to \$90,000 depending on the products that are chosen. There are potential grants and rebates that are available from the County that will help lower the cost. The concept of the Memorial is posted onsite which is located at Wells Parkway and Claggett Road.

4. Public Questions and Comments - Mayor John Tabori, Moderator

Julie Enszer - 6910 Wells Parkway

- Ms. Enszer vigorously opposes the placement of the Memorial.
- It will change the nature of the homes and property surrounding the park.
- A busy location.
- Neighbors were given inadequate notification and compensation.
- It is not a space that provides amenities for public gatherings such as restrooms, parking and handicap accessible.
- Sincerely hopes that the Council will reconsider the location.

Mr. Thompson - This site will not be treated as a recreational park but as a Memorial site that will only hold one or two functions a year, Veterans Day and Memorial Day.

Ms. Baugher - The bridge is intended as a second access point for those entering the Memorial and would allow visitors to park on either Wells Parkway or Clagett and would also accommodate the handicap.

Kathy Wootten - 6912 Wells Parkway

- Why was the busiest street in the neighborhood picked?
- Supports the idea but not the location.

Ginny May - 6504 Queens Chapel Road

- What plans are intended for wildlife at this Memorial?

Stephen Cook - To have a mix of plants that provide berries to help attract different forms of wild life.

- There is a plan under consideration by the County to remove wild life from water ways. This should be investigated prior to trying to attract wild life to this stream.

Dusan “Dewey” Schejbal - 6519 41st Avenue

- Appreciates the effort but as Veteran doesn’t see any need for it.
- People are on a fixed income in Town.
- Would like to see a nice tree planted.

Elaine Kennell - 6905 Wells Parkway

- There is nobody better than Veterans, they need to be honored, can’t understand this site, perhaps a plaque, a bench or a tree.
- Applauds the effort but has gotten carried away.
- Concerned about parking.

Kim Sherrill - 6910 Wells Parkway

- Cannot support this proposal.
- The footbridge leads directly to her house and raises concern for public safety.
- Would like to preserve the historic homes.
- Concerned of a significant expenditure of public funds.

Julie Enszer - 6910 Wells Parkway

- Asked Mayor Tabori if he plans to put this project in his proposal for a budget.

Mayor Tabori - Has not made that decision yet. Likely to put a line item in and then look at it with Council as to its impact on the budget.

Mr. Stephen Cook said that the Committee plans to meet on Sunday, March 16 to review the project based on the comments given and will provide more time to hear from others who were not present. On April 7, 2014 the Committee will present a package to the Council for approval.

Meeting adjourned: 8:35 p.m.