

Vietnam Memorial Committee

September 19, 2018

Meeting Notes - Banquet Hall, Town Hall, 6:00 PM

Present: Jerry Guthrie (Chairman); Bill Parker; Lincoln Daley, Community Development Director

J. Guthrie opened the meeting at 6:00 PM. There was not a quorum.

J. Guthrie presented the latest version of the site plan and proposed memorial which will be based on the “book” concept conceived by J. Weidman and the concept most preferred through survey results and committee members.

Discussion followed relative to the presentation to be given to the Board of Selectmen on Monday, September 24th. The focus will be on simplicity of design and attention to survey results and separating the Vietnam Memorial from the Freedom Memorial which will be presented to the Selectmen at a later meeting. The goal with the Selectmen will be to garner their support for a warrant article in March 2019 which will be only to establish a fund for donations.

J. Guthrie then presented his initial concept for the Freedom Memorial.

Discussion followed, and the members present decided P. Bartolomucci should continue his work developing a warrant article, and B. Parker should work with him on tha.

J. Guthrie adjourned the meeting at 6:35 PM.

Chairman Guthrie convened the meeting at 6:07 PM, with the meeting relocating from the Community Development Office to the Selectmen’s Meeting Room. L. Daley to join the group after meeting with the Planning Board on a site walk. J. Guthrie noted that the main focus of the meeting this evening would be to review any additional survey results generated by the follow-up on line survey which sought input on whether to propose a “combined Vietnam/War on Terror-Freedom Memorial”; two separate structures, and if two separate structures should the effort be done concurrently or construct the Vietnam memorial first and the Peace memorial at a later date, and if there was any overriding desire to utilize the more expensive black granite in the memorial(s).

The group did not have the survey update results until L. Daley arrived at 6:55 pm. Discussion prior to that time focused on deciding to publish the survey results for public knowledge, design of the memorial(s) based on existing public input, how to obtain names, the Keyes Memorial Park master plan recommendations and whether the Board of Selectmen were familiar with the master plan committee’s recommendations.

With L. Daley’s arrival the group then reviewed the approximately twenty (20) additional survey responses:

- Whether the monument should be two-sided (Vietnam on one side, War on Terror/Peace on the opposing side – approximately a 50/50 split in favor.
- Whether to focus only on the Vietnam memorial now with no War on Terror/Peace memorial – 40% yes (8), 60% no (12)
- Whether to have separate memorials and not combined – 55% yes (11), 45% no (9)
- Whether to utilize black granite – 35% yes (7), 65% no (13)

Discussion then focused on which theme was most preferred based on the first survey, and the group felt the “open book” theme was preferred. After much discussion it was the consensus of the group to propose two separate memorials but to attempt to construct both at the same time with simple imagery, verbiage on the back “covers”, include all the service branches, a timeline, and appropriate symbols. J. Guthrie floated his idea that the War on Terror/Freedom memorial be a sculpture and possibly abstract. J. Weidman summarized some common themes of care, support, and individuals. J. Weidman was then tasked with developing additional design for an open book memorial for Vietnam.

Minutes of the June 4th meeting were then approved upon a motion by R. Dellafelice, seconded by P. Bartolomucci, all in favor. J. Guthrie adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, August 15, 2018 Board of Selectmen's Meeting
Room, Town Hall, 6 PM