

Downtown Park Task Force
January 15, 2020

A meeting of the Downtown Park Task Force was held on Wednesday January 15, 2020 in room 315 at City Hall located at 211 Williams St, Royal Oak. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairperson Paruch.

	PRESENT	ABSENT
Chairperson	Paruch Arvan Ciechorski DuBuc Kindinger Krieger Streamer	Douglas McIntyre

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Ciechorski
Seconded by Mr. Krieger

BE IT RESOLVED that the Minutes of December 18, 2019 are hereby approved as submitted.

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

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CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS

There were no City Commission comments.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. John Wendland, 703 Irving, stated that there were 188 reasons to leave the Veterans' Memorial where it is. It costs a lot of money to move the memorial, instead maybe they can use that money to maintain it better than it had been.

Ms. Laura Harrison, 2729 Trafford, stated that the entrance to the park should be closer to the front door of the new city hall, and that the memorial should be left where it is. Also there should be more grass in the park.

Mr. David London, 5132 Thorncroft, representing the Veterans' Events Committee, stated that the memorial needs to have flag poles and he also felt the memorial should be up on a slight rise, not on flat ground.

Ms. Tana Logan, 400 N Vermont, stated that she submitted an email with safety and security issues that she would like the task force to review before they consider a splash pad. Also, she feels that there should be a restroom in the park.

Mr. Mike Leinweber, 1704 Bassett, stated that if the design of the memorial is done respectfully it would be ok to move it. He also asked the task force to look at the edges of the park, and how they approach the library and streets so that all designs work together.

Ms. Carol Hennessey, 258 E 12 Mile Rd, represented the Memorial Society and explained how the memorial came to be where it is. She urged the task force members to leave the memorial where it is for optimal usage of surrounding areas for presentations.

Ms. Emily Dumas, 825 W Houstonia, representing the library, clarified that the south doors of the library are staying open to the public, as well as the newly opened doors on the North side of the library. She also stated that having restrooms in the park is necessary as surrounding businesses are not open late for visitors needing a restroom.

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DECISION ON GLADE A OR GLADE B DESIGN

Members of the task force discussed their thoughts on the two proposed glades for the park.

Moved by Mr. Kreiger
Seconded by Commissioner DuBuc

Be it resolved, the committee approves the Glade A design..

Adopted Unanimously

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NEW BUSINESS TASK FORCE DECISION ON PLACEMENT OF VETERANS' MEMORIAL

Members of the task force discussed the potential movement of the veterans' memorial.

Moved by Ms. Kindinger
Seconded by Mr. Arvan

Be It resolved, the committee approves the plan to move the Veterans' Memorial into the designated space in the plans, and going forward the design team will work with the Memorial Society to create a respectful space for reflection.

Adopted unanimously

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DISCUSSION OF HAVING A RESTROOM IN THE PARK

Members of the committee discussed their thoughts on whether there should be a restroom in the park or not. Some members felt that there needed to be, while others felt that maybe there was another solution. There is enough money in the budget to at least put in the plumbing and electricity where the restroom would potentially be.

Mr. Rassel stated that adding a restroom will be going out to bid soon.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Mr. DuBuc, seconded by Mr. Arvan, and decided unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Melanie Halas, City Clerk