

DRAFT Minutes
Veterans Memorial Monument Management Issues

April 3, 2007

Attendees:

Mike Applegarth, Rod Barton, Rich Buchanan, Bill Cathcart, James Denmark, Sal Gigante, Laura Gill, Lou Green, Dennis Hass, Robert Primicerio, Charles Rose, Ken Schoniger, Jim Wiltshire, Jack Winhall

- Vision – General agreement was reached on the following vision statement: Our Veterans Memorial Monument shall forever be a place of dignity and honor visited respectfully to provide quiet reflection of veterans and their service. Further discussions will continue to craft a final vision statement to include: “To honor those who have served the cause of freedom.”

- Events

General: The El Dorado County Veterans Monument is intended to honor the veterans of this country and to provide a place for individuals to engage quiet contemplation, reflection, meditation, and consideration of the veterans and their service. To preserve this purpose, it is intended that the Monument not be utilized for any organized activities other than the commemorative ceremonies to be held on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. The monument is to be accessible to the public for the stated purposes, but shall be preserved as a non-public forum.

- National Holidays: Memorial Day, Veterans Day – The Friends will host events for only these two holidays.
- Non-National Holidays (including Pearl Harbor Day) – Formal events will not be held at the monument. The Pearl Harbor remembrance event will be held at the Veterans Hall.
- Funerals – There will be no formal ceremonies, services, or caskets at the monument. While recognizing that impromptu memorial services or gatherings will occur, all such gatherings must comply with the reflective purpose of the monument.
- “Other occasions” - None will be held at the monument. The Monument shall not be available to be reserved for any activities by the public or by any organizations.

- Protocols
 - Who is primary contact?
 - For monument-specific issues, General Services is the primary point of contact.
 - The Veterans Services Officer remains the point of contact for coordination of issues among veterans groups.
 - Who books events?
 - Given that events are restricted to Memorial Day and Veterans Day, protocols for booking events are not necessary.
 - What is the status of the memorial with respect to its availability as a forum for the exercise of free speech rights?
 - Case law allows government property that is not a "traditional" free speech forum (e.g. streets, sidewalks) to be maintained as a non-public forum in order to preserve it for its intended use. It is intended that the Veterans Monument be preserved as a non-public forum to ensure its use for its intended purpose. Such restrictions must be uniform and applied consistently. County Counsel will craft policy language to restrict use that would conflict with that purpose. Such language would generally prohibit expressions of political speech (e.g. protests, demonstrations, rallies, public oration, and distribution of leaflets) within the "boundaries" of the monument. Staff at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund review speeches given at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Monument to ensure that speeches do not contain political messages. Following this model, steps will be taken to ensure that ceremonies that occur on Memorial Day and Veterans Day are appropriately commemorative and do not enter into the area of political expression.
 - Types of physical recognition
 - The Friends will craft a set of proposed guidelines governing the levels of distinction of honorable and distinguished service for the determination of the location of recognition at the monument.
- Maintenance/Upkeep – The Memorandum of Conveyance between the U.S. Department of Interior and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund contains language that will serve as a template for a Memorandum of Understanding between the County and the Friends:
 - The County shall be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the Monument, including installation of any bricks, plaques and the like that are provided by the Friends.
 - The County, through the General Services Department, will notify the Friends in writing of any intended or proposed changes in the design, configuration, or

landscaping of the monument. The Friends will have the opportunity to discuss any such changes with representatives of the General Services Department.

Other issues:

- Any modifications must be consistent with the original purpose of the monument, which is to honor veterans.
 - The Friends will continue to purchase materials for the monument, such as bricks, tiles, plaques, and benches. The General Services Department is responsible for the installation of the materials within the monument.
 - The General Services Department will work with the Friends to define the boundary of the monument and place boundary markers where appropriate.
 - The General Services Department will create additional parking spaces and ramps that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Role of Veterans Affairs Commission
 - The Commission is advisory to the Board of Supervisors.
 - The Friends will continue to provide the Real Property Committee of the Commission with status reports.
 - The Friends will provide an annual report, including a financial report and a “State of the Monument” report, to the Veterans Services Officer. He will then provide the report to the Commission and to the Board of Supervisors.