



CITY OF COCONUT CREEK CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MINUTES

Government Center
4800 W. Copans Road
Coconut Creek, Florida

Date: April 27, 2023
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Meeting No. 2023-0427WS

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rydell called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

PRESENT UPON ROLL CALL:

Mayor Joshua Rydell
Vice Mayor Sandra L. Welch
Commissioner Jacqueline Railey
Commissioner John A. Brodie
Commissioner Jeffrey R. Wasserman
City Manager Karen M. Brooks
City Attorney Terrill C. Pyburn
City Clerk Joseph J. Kavanagh
Assistant to the City Manager Bernadette Hughes

Mayor Rydell noted that the meeting was being conducted live with a quorum physically present and noted that the meeting was being broadcast live on the City's website and YouTube channel.

DISCUSSION – MEMORIALS

City Manager Karen Brooks opened the discussion, explaining there had been Commission requests for various memorials in the City, including a Holocaust Memorial, 9/11 Memorial, and an expansion of Veterans Park and veteran recognitions. She stated staff was currently in the budget process and sought direction regarding how to best meet the memorial requests.

Assistant to the City Manager Bernadette Hughes began a *PowerPoint* presentation, summarizing how the City memorializes each of the topics, beginning with the 9/11 Memorial. She shared images of the 9/11 Memorial at Coconut Creek Fire Rescue Station 50, noting it was previously displayed at City Hall. She noted the memorial included a plaque and a piece of steel from the World Trade Center and that, as a requirement of accepting the steel, it was to be displayed in such a way that anyone who wanted to touch it could do so. She discussed options for expanding the memorial, including programming and capital improvements.

Continuing, Ms. Hughes shared options for a Holocaust Memorial. She discussed returning to a lecture series, which was previously paused during the COVID-19 pandemic, and reviewed other programming and capital improvement ideas.

Ms. Hughes discussed the robust programs currently implemented that recognize veterans in Coconut Creek. She shared renderings of the Veterans Park Improvement Project, which was included in the long-range Capital Improvement Plan and Parks and Recreation Master Plan for Fiscal Year 2030 with a budget of \$1.3 million. She presented ideas for a smaller interim project, specifically a mobile Vietnam Veterans Wall, which staff had been researching, and a potential museum presentation.

Commissioner Railey shared why she felt strongly about memorializing 9/11 and discussed her personal experience. She stated she loved the museum idea and would be supportive of anything that could be

done to further recognize the impacts of the day. She noted she would like to see the World Trade Center steel shared differently. Discussion ensued briefly, and consensus was that a traveling program would result in more visibility.

Commissioner Wasserman addressed the ideas presented for memorialization of the Holocaust. He commented that proclamations and recognition of Holocaust Remembrance Day were important, and highlighted a program that brings a traveling cattle car to schools around the country. He stated he saw an opportunity for a memorial park as part of the MainStreet development, recognizing various things that touch people's lives. Continuing, he discussed reviving the lecture series and reaching out to Holocaust survivors living in Wynmoor to share their stories. Mayor Rydell suggested a sculpture on City property as a potential idea to add to the list of ideas for Holocaust memorialization. Vice Mayor Welch noted that public art funds could possibly be used for this purpose.

Commissioner Brodie discussed the ideas for recognition of Veterans. He stated he did not think the intent was a memorial in a corner of a park, but the banner program was a good start. He noted he liked the idea of plaques specific to conflicts to give people an opportunity for personal connection to the park. Vice Mayor Welch invited a discussion about bringing the Veterans Park Improvement Project forward rather than waiting to Fiscal Year 2030. Discussion ensued regarding the wars and conflicts to include in the memorial.

Mayor Rydell shared a letter received from an individual interested in building a wall in recognition of the Iraq War. City Manager Brooks stated she had recently been updated that a location was secured in Port St. Lucie and donations were being collected for that project.

Commissioner Wasserman suggested adding Veterans to the speaker series. Mayor Rydell agreed, noting it was a way to take action with immediacy while also working toward longer term capital projects. Discussion ensued regarding resurrection of speaker programs in place prior to the pandemic, coordination with the Florida Panthers hockey team in their recognition of Veterans, and coordination with the organizer of the Honor Flights program.

City Manager Brooks summarized the recommendations briefly.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Joseph J. Kavanagh, MMC
City Clerk

Date