

Service, Utility and Public Land Meeting Minutes

December 7, 2023

In attendance:

Chairman Charlie Malta

Committee member David Phares

Mayor Mike Vanni

Councilman Patrick Mohorcic

Councilman Tom Loncala

Charlie received the W-9 tax form from Owen. Charlie will meet with Finance Director Cheryl Benedict to start our own 501(c)(3).

Owen Engle gave updates on the project:

- He reminded everyone that today is Pearl Harbor Day
- On Monday he met with the Student Advisory Board and updated them on this project
- He was invited to speak at the National Reach Across America Day at Evergreen Cemetery on Riverside Drive on December 16th. Daughters of the American Revolution is laying 1000 wreaths.
- Current money raised for the Gold Star project is \$2,280.14
- Painesville VFW donated \$1,000. They donated online on November 30, 2023.
- He is continuing to pass out flyers to local businesses
- He is working on finishing his response to the Willoughby-Eastlake Schools PR representative about that they can post on social media about our project
- There was a \$15 cash donation from <couldn't hear>

Councilman Mohorcic asked how the committee is handling cash donations. Owen Engle responded by saying he thinks we could mail them to the Woodie Williams Foundation address and Councilman Mohorcic agreed that would be the best way. Chairman Charlie Malta stated that since he was a postman for many years, he is leery about sending money in the mail. Councilman Loncala mentioned maybe depositing it into someone's account but mixing personal funds with committee funds may not be the best idea either. Chairman Malta stated that we should get clarification from the Woodie Williams Foundation first before we do anything with the cash.

Charlie Malta asked Mayor Vanni about possibly contacting Eastlake Mayor Dennis Morley about getting large donors similar to what they did for the baseball park. Willoughby Mayor Bob Fiala needs to be contacted about this also.

Councilman Mohorcic will try to contact someone he knows at Lake Health about possibly donating.

Mayor Vanni talked about a friend of his in Canton, Ohio who had knowledge of the cost, size etc. of the monument in Stark County.

Owen stated that Ohio has 16 memorials and 3 more on the way. Ohio second behind Texas for number of memorials.

Councilman Phares asked if the flyer has been mailed out for distribution. Owen stated that he emailed the flyer to Charlie and others requested the flyer also.

Owen talked about places where he has dropped off flyers. Charlie asked him to make a list of places he has visited so we don't repeat stops.

Mayor Vanni has a meeting with Lake Metroparks in January so he will see about getting them involved. He also has a meeting with Shoregate owners and will bring it up to them.

There was a discussion about other businesses to seek donations from and who had contacts for them.

Willowick resident Mike Bowen stated that he would like to offer his technical assistance if Owen needs to make a presentation on the big screen in Council chambers or somewhere else.

More discussion about groups and businesses that could possibly donate – Bar Forno

Audience member talked about getting a coin minted for the project that could be sold at events to raise money.

Councilman Mohorcic mentioned bringing flyers to the Senior Center

Willowick resident Jean Bowen asked who is allowed to solicit for donations. Charlie stated anyone can do it but don't go door-to-door. Just businesses.

The Willoughby-Eastlake Superintendent will donate any building for an event.

Owen talked about the 5K run he wants to set up for the project. He has to email his cross country contact and is looking to have the event at the end of July or beginning of August. Charlie will reach out to the Mentor cross-country coach

Owen talked about doing a presentation at the auditorium at North High School and then mailing the presentation to student's parents

The Woodie Williams Foundation has a letter template to pass out to donors. We would just need to change the name and information on it.

More discussion on possible donors and businesses – Revolution Pizza

Charlie thinks we should do something to recognize the large donors at the monument site

Next meeting will be January 4th, tentatively

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm

