



KAUKAUNA VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK ASSOCIATION MINUTES

Thursday, August 26, 2021

A meeting of the Kaukauna Veteran's Memorial Park Association was called to order at 4:07 p.m. on Thursday, August 26, 2021, by President/Mayor Tony Penterman.

Members present: Mayor Penterman, Karen Koch, Fred Cazzola, Brian Roebke, Gene Schaefer, Neal Borchert, and interested parties. Absent: Brenda Leon, Mark Landreman, Lisa Wolfinger, Marty DeCoster.

A motion to excuse the absent was made by Brian Roebke, seconded by Karen Koch. All members voted aye; motion carried.

A motion to approve the minutes of May 10, 2021, was made by Fred Cazzola, seconded by Neal Borchert. All members voted aye; motion carried.

Mayor began the meeting by apologizing to the DeBruin family for a letter that was sent in reference to moving the POW/MIA flag. The letter was sent in error before gathering all the background information.

Fred Cazzola discussed flag protocol and suggested purchasing two new flagpoles so there would be a pole dedicated to the Space Force and an extra pole should something else come up. Mayor had POW/MIA flag flying protocol information and stated the proper way to fly that flag is under the American flag or next to the American flag on a separate pole directly to the left. Fred would like to see the American flag on the tallest pole, two new poles that are shorter than the American flagpole for the POW/MIA flag and the state flag, and then the remainder of the poles a bit shorter for the other agencies.

The order of precedence the flags should be flown is US Army, US Marine Corps, US Navy, US Air Force, US Coast Guard, US Space Force.

Representatives for the DeBruin family were present:

Don De Bruin, brother, US Army Vet, Cecil
Dar DeBruin Hein, sister, Appleton
Dick Hein, husband to Dar DeBruin Hein, US Army Vet, Appleton
Dana Weber, friend, US Navy Vet, Appleton
Mike Weaver, friend, US Army Vet, Appleton
Mary Ebben, friend, Kaukauna

Dick Hein from Appleton asked if other communities follow protocol with the flags. Brian stated that he believes so. Dar DeBruin Hein thanked the committee for maintaining the

memorial and said that it is a great place for the family to go to remember their brother, Gene.

Dar further stated that the flagpole the POW/MIA flag flies on was dedicated to their loved one and they want to keep it that way. They do not want to see their flag moved beneath the US flag. The pole was purchased by their family, dedicated to Gene, and purchased for the purpose of honoring him. The DeBruin family has agreed to moving the POW/MIA flag next to the American flag if it flies on its own pole and the plaque is moved with it. The fear of the DeBruin family is that their loved one will be forgotten.

Mike Weaver of Kaukauna spoke on behalf of the DeBruin family. Mike also presented the Association members with small POW/MIA flags to remember the day and to remember Eugene DeBruin.

The cost of a 20' pole from Fly Me Flag with installation is about \$1,020 per pole. Mike stated that no matter the cost, he feels some group will be willing to fund the new poles. The Association could seek donations, and there is also money in the Ring of Honor account. We are looking to purchase two taller poles.

The group will meet again before the November Veterans Day ceremony. Mayor stated that we will do some research and come back with a recommendation for the layout, how many poles should be purchased and at what height they should be. Mayor suggested a meeting with Mike Weaver and Fred Cazzola to discuss protocol and then verify with the DeBruin's prior to any adoption of a layout. Dar asked if the other families will be notified of the flags being moved.

The DeBruin family agreed to moving the flag and plaque, if necessary, but stated that the POW/MIA flag should be flying on its own pole. When the new layout for the park is approved, it needs to be stated that the layout cannot be changed. The desired outcome is three different heights for the flagpoles. Brian's preference is that each flag has a dedicated pole, so they aren't being switched.

Mayor suggested a meeting in mid-October to discuss a new layout and invite the DeBruin's back to get the approval from the family and have the minutes reflect that no other flags will be flown on their pole.

Having the layout in the bylaws would be beneficial.

There being no further business to be brought before the Association, a motion to adjourn was made by Brian Roebke, seconded by Neal Borchert. All members voted aye; motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

Submitted by Karen Koch, Secretary