

Never Forget 911 Memorial Inc. Board Meeting

September 19, 2024, 5:30 pm

Bedford Branch Library

Attendance

Present: Scott Heacock, Bernadette Opsahl, Robert Opsahl, Myrta Gschaar, Al Prieur, Jodi Russ Absent: Henry Jordan

Guest: Kevin Wexler, a potential team leader for the focus committee.

Approval of minutes

Motion by Al, Second by Scott. The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

Myrta called the meeting to order at 5:50 PM.

- Scott:
 - New rendering 2x2, 12-14 ft high, pentagon concrete base, the "Lets Roll" inscription is etched in concrete.
 - He mentioned trying to determine the best material for the new towers.
 - A discussion was created about the cost of building new towers.
 - He mentioned that he does not like the 2nd location near the parking lot when entering the library. Robert brings up the reflection of the Towers from oncoming traffic once erected. All attendees agreed.
- Kevin:
 - Mentioned a person named Gene Stock, who oversaw a similar project.
 - Kevin discussed fundraising, and Jodi mentioned using bricks is difficult from personal experience.
 - Kevin discusses the location of all the victim names and where they will be displayed.
- Robert:
 - Mentioned the memorial should be proportional. Original 200 by 200 base and 1776 feet tall (tower 1). If the memorial is 2x2, then it should be 17.76 feet tall. Also, the relative positions and directions they face should be accurate.
- Myrta:
 - Topic regarding volunteer interest: Person Ronald Vega, an architect who is not associated with the victims of 9/11 or a survivor, dedicated his life to the 911 Memorial in NY. Ronald is giving us the last survivor tree seeds that need to be delivered or picked up in October of this year. Myrta presented a souvenir of a survivor tree sold in the 9/11 Memorial Museum for show and tell. Ronald put together an email with the names of victims born in Michigan. (Copy of email presented)
 - Scott asked if we had contact information for the Michigan victim. Answer (no)
 - Robert asks if Michigan will allow us to plant an invasive tree. Al responded that the library board would approve. Jodi looked it up online to verify Michigan State will allow the Callery Pear Tree to be planted. Ohio will not.
 - Topic about flags if we want 5 flags or 1 flag. Scott states 5 flags are overwhelming or too high and takes away from the structure and suggested use 1 USA flag. All present agreed. Scott suggested putting flags in protective cases. Jodi mentioned having shorter poles. Decision to be made toward the end of project completion.

- Al:
 - Requests from here on out that all meetings follow a professional flow to include an agenda. It is suggested that the Bedford Township meeting structure be used.
 - Mentioned a new Bedford Township Board will be happening.
 - Mentioned we should start doing surveys.
- Jodi:
 - She suggested we put together a package that presents our visions and goals that can be given to donors such as corporations. AL suggests that something be done to recruit people to join the project. Bernadette states Myrta is working on recruiting and expediting donation request letters.
 - She suggested adding to the bylaws the consequences of attendance. Al suggests the next meeting be an organizational meeting highlighting positions and responsibilities. At the next meeting, we can discuss updating the current bylaws. Myrta suggests adding virtual meetings.

Other

- Bernadette took some headshots that were taken for the temporary free website. <https://bit.ly/4foJxQH>
- Myrta gave out 23rd anniversary 9/11 gifts and told her story associated with 9/11.
- It was suggested using the back south side parking lot of the library.
- Meeting adjourned 7:10 PM

Tasks

Jodi will conduct a survey on the location of this project's learning center, Myrta will ask Ronald if we can grow the tree indoors to plant in 2025, Scott will draw a new location, Al and Jodi will create a business plan, Bernadette will create the first Agenda for the next meeting, Myrta will complete recruiting and donation request letters, and Myrta will contact Gene Stock.

Next meetings

Bedford Library Board Meeting September 23, 2024 @ 6:30 PM (Attendees Myrta and Bernadette)

Organizational Board Meeting October 17, 2024 @ 5:45 PM (Attendee The Board)

Ronald Vega (architect) Zoom or virtual meeting with him in October 2024