

FY 24 ANNUAL REPORT

VETERANS PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE



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VETERANS PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

William A. English – Chair – Public at Large

Kevin J Burris – Vice Chair – Public at large

Donald Bailey – Member – Amvets Post 312

Melodi Wilson – Member – American Legion Post 254

Sergio Stephens – Member – Veteran of Armed Services

David Rambo – Member – VFW Post 8203

William Hadovski – Alternate I

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The City Commission tasks the Veterans Park Advisory Committee with making recommendations regarding the planning and development of a new Veterans Park at the North Port City Center, at the location identified.

The Veterans Park Advisory Committee shall, within one year of its first meeting, provide the City Commission with the following recommendations:

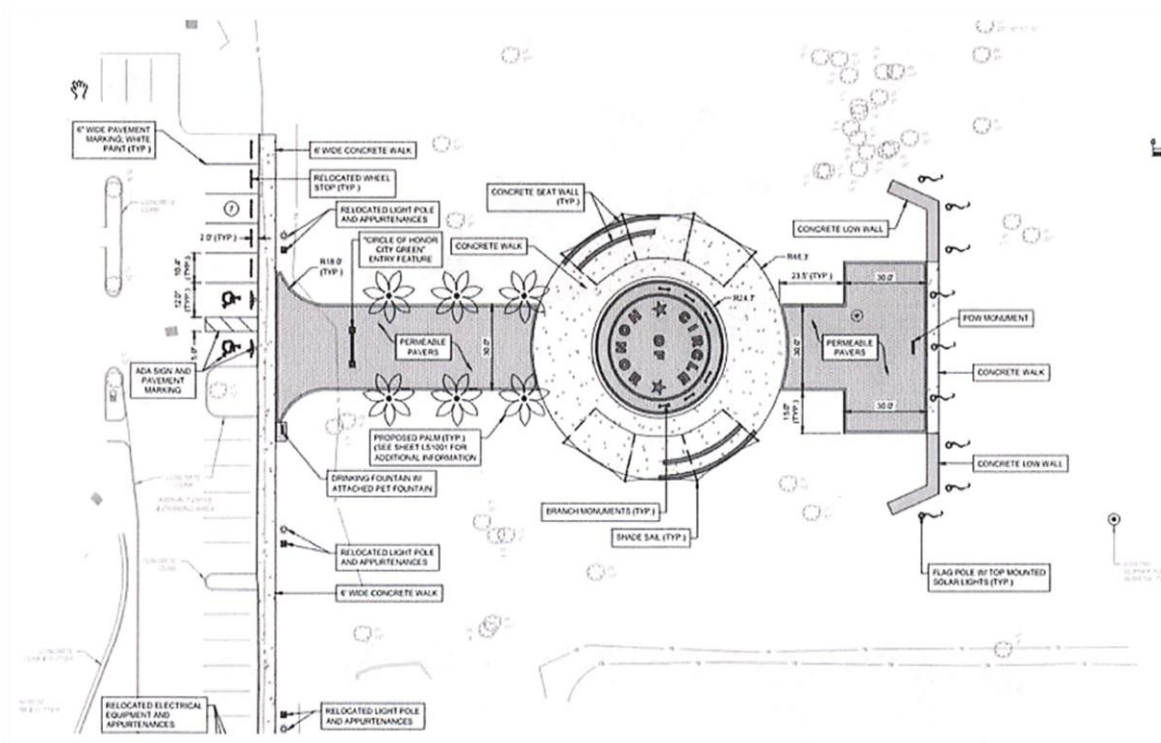
- A. A proposed name and general concept for the design for the Veterans Park and desired amenities. This proposal shall include recommendations from community members and stakeholders;
- B. Possible funding, sponsorship, and grant opportunities, including recommendations from community members and stakeholders;
- C. American with Disabilities (ADA) considerations for accessibility, shade, lighting, and other concerns;
- D. Proposed educational, historical, and cultural opportunities;
- E. Other ideas for design and monuments within the Veterans Park; and
- F. Other recommendations related to Veterans Park as the City Commission may direct from time to time.

The Veterans Park Advisory Committee shall provide input and other recommendations to the Parks & Recreation Department related to initiatives to obtain funding, sponsorships, and donations for the Veterans Park's planning, design, and construction.

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2024 Accomplishments

- Recommended the final design plan for approval.
- Considered several options for value engineering i.e., reduce the number of flags from 9 to 3.
- Endorsed the contract manager selection.
- Championed keeping gopher tortoises on-site.
- Developed a list of amenities that could be incorporated into the Tribute Program pending final construction costs.



2025 Goals

- Groundbreaking event for the start of the project.
- Encourage donations towards project features through the expanded Tribute Program.

The Veterans Park Advisory Committee fully supports the complete final design as presented, which incorporates the recommendations of the committee. We believe that the proposed design will create a meaningful and accessible space that honors our veterans and provides a place for reflection and remembrance. We commend the efforts of the design team in incorporating our suggestions and look forward to the successful development of the new Veterans Park at the North Port City Center.

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