



Parks & Recreation
316 Vernon Street
Roseville, CA 95678

March 15, 2010

**Meeting Summary and Next Steps: Veterans Coalition Formation
Report Back Discussion Held on February 23, 2010**

Attendees: John Vertido, Don Chapman, Arthur Smaltz, Jamie Carlson, Tara Gee

Meeting Summary

The discussion began with a summary of the City Council meeting held on February 17, 2010. The City Council approved the Memorial/Monument policy. The policy contained a large number of updates, one of which was the formation of a Veterans' Coalition. Tara Gee outlined the City Council's support in the formation of this Coalition and their direction to create an inclusive (not exclusive) committee.

The discussion also included a clarification that the Veterans' Coalition has not yet been formed and that the meetings being held with City staff were to discuss the formation and determine what the membership would include.

Feedback on the draft membership outline from other participating veterans and residents had been positive. No changes were requested through those individuals.

The draft language distributed for feedback was reviewed (and is included below).

Membership is defined as follows:

Recognized Veterans Groups

Recognized groups for inclusion in the Veterans Coalition are benevolent veteran's organization with Roseville veterans as the primary focus. This can be defined as:

- 1) *Nationally recognized groups by the Department of Veterans Affairs which are based within the Roseville City limits. The list of recognized organizations can be found on <http://www1.va.gov/vso/index.cfm?template=view>; or*
- 2) *Locally recognized veteran's organizations that operate under a formal structure via by-laws, approved meeting procedures, etc. Local organizations must operate within the Roseville City limits with 90% (minimum) of its membership comprised of Roseville residents.*

At-Large Members

A minimum of three At-Large members are to be included in the Veterans Coalition. At-Large members must be:

- 1) *A veteran of a recognized military armed service or an active duty military armed service member, serving on the Veterans Coalition in a civilian capacity; and*
- 2) *A Roseville resident.*

No specific changes were suggested at the meeting.

A question was asked regarding why membership would include non-veterans, such as veteran-oriented organizations made up of family members of veterans. John Vertido answered the question by confirming the goal of the Coalition, which is to create an inclusive public committee that involves all veterans **and** those organizations whose purpose is in support of veterans. The intention of the Veterans' Coalition was not to limit the membership to veterans only. By including a larger participation,

Roseville veterans would have a stronger, unified voice in making requests to the City. As it stands today, requests from Veterans groups are fractured and often conflict with one another. The results are duplication of efforts, a draw on City resources both in time and monies, and places staff in the middle of uncomfortable situations forcing them to make choices between groups.

Arthur Smaltz indicated that the American Legion's Executive team has decided to not participate. Don Chapman asked if this item has been taken to the American Legion membership and as yet, it has not.

The Fleet Reserve and Veterans of Foreign Wars representatives (Mr. Chapman and Mr. Smaltz, respectively) agreed to take back the above information and indicate to Tara Gee whether their organization will continue participating or not. They asked if the American Legion, VFW or Fleet Reserve all choose to not participate, would there still be a Coalition. This would need to be evaluated and discussed further.

Tara Gee reiterated the City's desire to have these organizations' participation, but that no one would be forced to do so. The City intends to have all veteran-related requests of the City be brought through a City-approved Veterans Coalition and expressed hope that these organizations would choose to participate.

Next Steps

Since the February 23rd meeting, the City has re-evaluated the situation. After four open meetings with group representatives, the idea of a self-administered, volunteer committee does not appear to be realistic. In order to ensure that this committee be as inclusive as possible, the City has decided to move forward with the Veterans' Coalition as a City Council-appointed Roseville Veterans Coalition/Committee. All veteran-related organizations and/or individuals, as described above, are invited to serve. I will be happy to keep you up-to-date as to the next steps, application process, etc. and inform you if there any follow-up meetings.

Staff will be working with the City Attorney's office to create the Roseville Veterans' Coalition/Committee. Updates on progress will be posted on the City's web page at

http://www.roseville.ca.us/parks/veterans_coalition.asp

Sincerely,



Tara L. Gee
Sr. Landscape Architect

Cc: Jamie Carlson