

**ELYSIAN CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
WITH ELYSIAN PARK BOARD
MAY 21, 2019**

The Elysian City Council met in special joint session with the Elysian Park Board on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at City Hall at 7:00 pm.

Roll Call: Mayor Tom McBroom; Councilmembers Bobby Houlihan, Dennis Schnoor, Bryan Suemnick; City Administrator Lorri Kopischke; Public Works Director Ron Greenwald.
Absent: Councilmember Mary Opsahl.

Elysian Park Board Members present included President Dennis Schnoor; Vice President Robert Houlihan; Secretary Nicole Lamont; Kris Miller, Roger Quiram, Ron Greenwald.

Sharon Brandt, President, American Legion #311 Auxiliary, and Tom Neidick, Commander, American Legion Post #311, presented a proposal for a 20' by 25' Veterans Memorial to be built on the berm in the center of Sunset Park in Elysian. The Memorial would be the focal point of the park and would be up high enough that the flags would be visible from the school, the bike path and the neighborhood to the north. The base would be built with Vetter Stone and the center would start as pea rock. The Legion plans to sell pavers in memory of loved ones to replace the pea rock. The American Flag would be positioned at the northern most point. The Memorial would be lit with solar LED lighting with conduit installed in anticipation of electricity to the park in the future. The City is planning to move some native trees to the park this summer and the Legion anticipates some trees to be planted around the Memorial. The lighting and trees will help deter vandalism.

McBroom suggested that even with the Memorial being the focal point, this will still be Sunset Park. This will not be a Veterans Memorial Park. The Memorial will be one thing in the Park and the other suggested items can be built around it. Perhaps there can even be events held there on July 4th or Veteran's Day to honor those who serve. McBroom asked if the Memorial would be funded via donations.

Brandt stated the Memorial is expected to cost \$15,000 to \$20,000 and the Legion is planning to fund it through donations and possibly some grants.

Mack Evans, American Legion #311 member, asked everyone to find support for this proposal. He noted the memorials in Morristown, Medford, and the Rochester Soldier Field Memorial which was built with no taxpayer dollars. He stated that Elysian has guys that work with trees, cement and they are all willing to volunteer. They all really believe in this project. Evans spoke of his family's service and his own service in combat situations in Vietnam. These experiences will live with the veteran forever. He asked that there be support for this proposal. There will be no expense to the taxpayer.

McBroom stated this would be a good start for the City Park – not the end. It would draw attention to the park and more people would start to visit. McBroom acknowledged the two concept drawings of Sunset Park and that he would like to progress with those ideas once there was more backing and more funds available.

Houlihan stated that the park needs to start somewhere, and this seems to be a good way to start.

Schnoor spoke as President of the Park Board. He stated no one was against the Veterans Memorial. The Park Board had met with the Legion at the site and they just felt there may be a

better location for the Memorial. The Park Board doesn't know how the park will be developed yet. They do not want the Memorial in the center of the park and to be a focal point of the park.

Neidick stated the natural place for this Memorial is on the berm. There is lots of space left in the park.

Lamont asked if the Legion was going to help with a path to the Memorial. This location is quite a distance from the parking lot.

Brandt stated the Legion would install a crushed rock path to begin with. The berm is in the center, but the Memorial would be built on the north side of the berm. They had walked it and it is not a steep walk.

Quiram noted that the berm is large. The Memorial can still be the focal point if it is located off to the side.

Houlihan stated he did not mind the Memorial being the focal point of the park. This is still a fluid park. The ideas for the park might be built sometime in the future, but this Memorial could be built this year. This is such a good thing and the people will come to enjoy it.

Greenwald stated he had not been at the Park Board meeting where this was discussed but if he would have been there, he would have voted in favor of the location requested by the Legion. This will not change the use of the park. It will be difficult to bring the Memorial closer to the parking area as there is a drop off and extensive dirt work would be required. He suggested that if the requested location is an issue, the memorial could be slid just a hair to the east. He likes the idea of the flags up on the berm. The amphitheater is a great idea, but he is a realist and just not so sure that is going to happen. The Veterans Memorial is going to happen. This will get the park started and he feels the berm is a great location.

On motion by McBroom, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to approve the Veterans Memorial proposal from the American Legion Post #311 at the requested location at Sunset Park and to move forward with the process.

On motion by McBroom, seconded by Suemnick, all voting in favor, to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 pm.

Approved:

Tom McBroom, Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator