



President—Dennis

Spoke Newsletter

Wednesday August 07, 2019

Attendance: 23 (51%)

Lincoln East Rotary Club

Mark Orr—Veterans Memorial Garden Advisory Council

Wednesday, August 14, 2019

Arranged by Duane Tappe



Mark is currently the Chairperson for the Veterans Memorial Garden Advisory Council. I spent 28 years in the Air Force with most of it full time at the Nebraska Air Guard. I then worked for 15 years at the Arbor Day Foundation in the IT Department repairing computers and doing infrastructure, and networking. I am a second generation with the Vet Council after taking over for my dad and have been with this group for approximately 14 years.

The Veteran's Memorial Garden Advisory Council was formed to recommend policy on issues relating to the development, design, programming and preservation of the Garden area and all memorials contained in the Garden. The Council is comprised of mayoral appointed members committed to creating a place and promoting events to honor all veterans and their families, past and present. Through the Council, an endowment account has been established to help maintain the Garden.

History

During the first week of June 1989, over 80,000 people gathered at Antelope Park to view the traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall. The area where the "Wall" was located, originally a ball field, became a sacred area for many people and was never the same. By 1991, the Persian Gulf War brought a new wave of pride and patriotism. As a result, communities, states and the nation as a whole banded together to give proper recognition and honor to veterans of that time, and all eras. Through efforts of the Lincoln community, the area was officially named the "Veteran's Memorial Garden."

Military Memorials

About 20 memorials stand in the Garden today including Airborne, After 1980, All Airmen, American Merchant Marine, China Burma India, Disabled American Veterans, Ex-Prisoners of War, Family, K-9 Unsung, Korea, Marine Corps, Military Medical, Peace Time, Pearl Harbor, Pre 1900, Purple Heart, Seabees, Special Forces, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Navy Armed Guard, Vietnam, Women's Veterans, World War I and World War II. Currently, one additional group is fundraising for monuments: Buffalo Soldiers/Tuskegee Airmen. Many events are held at the Veteran's Memorial Garden recognizing special days like Memorial Day, Patriot Day, Veteran's Day and Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. On these and other holidays, all 46 flags are flying in commemoration. An annual dedication of newly placed bricks is held on the second Saturday in June at 10:00 a.m. to dedicate all new "Bricks of Honor" in the garden and to celebrate the existence of Lincoln's unique Veteran's Memorial Garden.

Bricks of Honor

"Brick of Honor" is available for all Veterans, living or deceased, who received an Honorable or General Discharge. Bricks will be placed on a wall next to the memorial that you designate. Bricks for Veterans organizations and Auxiliary organizations will be accepted and placed in the Family Section.

Lincoln East Rotary Club
Meetings at Valentino's—70th & Van Dorn
Noon Luncheon starting @ 11:45 a.m.

August 07, 2019

Lincoln East Rotary Club
Liz Shea-McCoy—Nebraska Arts Council
Wednesday, August 7, 2019
Arranged By Duane Tappe



The offense was taken and confusion surrounding a 6-foot-tall "Spider-Man" sculpture on display near the Lincoln Children's Zoo has added titles to Matt Schulte's job description. Not only is the executive director of Campus Life, a Christian nonprofit, he told the City Council on Monday. But he's also now a purveyor of public art and "Protector of Spider-Man."



He and Liz Shea-McCoy, who helped coordinate the Serving Hands public art project, tried to get out front of any further controversy surrounding the "Spider-Man" sculpture Monday. Earlier this month, a woman wrote the mayor's office demanding the red-and-black sculpture be removed because she believed it signified devil horns and was anti-Christian. There are 50 sculptures across the city as part of the series.

They'll be auctioned in October to raise money for Campus Life projects. Before the woman's email, Schulte heard a lot about the sculpture depicting hands bearing a folded flag displayed on the VA campus in east Lincoln and "Spider-Man." Then the Journal Star wrote about the woman's letter, and the story went viral. Schulte fielded calls from CNN and Fox News. The story was picked up by media outlets all over the country. Subsequently, the woman who initially took offense wrote Schulte and said she'd realized she was mistaken and that she hoped the attention her initial letter spawned would benefit Campus Life, he said. But that didn't put the issue to bed, as Schulte and Shea-McCoy heard rumblings there might be others mobilizing to move the "Spider-Man" hands. So, they showed up at the meeting and tried to preempt concerns during public comment."

It's gone from a little bit of 'This is so silly' to a little more serious," Shea-McCoy said. She informed the council about the sculpture selection process, saying appropriateness for community display is one of the key factors in selecting the theme on an individual sculpture. Artists from around the state submit one to five proposals before they are examined and winnowed by a panel of judges, she said. Ultimately, just one woman stepped forward during public comment to warn the council of the proliferation of icons in everyday places here and across the U.S. that she believes pay homage to the devil. She doesn't believe the hands depict "Spider-Man," and she cautioned the council to be on the lookout for signs and symbols sympathetic to Satan.

(Excerpts from Lincoln Journal Star)

Chuck's Corner (#3)

I recently attended my granddaughter's graduation from the University of Michigan School of Social Work in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She received her Master's Degree with an emphasis on counseling. The keynote speaker was the CEO of an organization that dealt with the homeless and folks with various disabilities. They began by providing services for those with emotional problems but soon realized that their clients needed a place to stay at night. Later they needed a place for free and easy access to health care. Next, they needed a way to economic independence as well as other services. He emphasized sized the need for the community to come up with all the resources to accomplish their lofty goals and when the services weren't available they developed them.

We realize this with our work in Zambia. There is no silver bullet out of poverty and it takes a long time to develop the systems that will eliminate it. The second speaker was a student who encouraged the graduates to look at environments as well as providing individual counseling when dealing with folks with problem behaviors. He suggested linking with organizations beyond theirs in order to have a greater impact. At lunch after the ceremony, I encouraged my granddaughter to join Rotary as one approach to expanding her impact. Too often, young folks (and old ones also) set out alone in the world to solve major problems, but what is needed is collaboration.

I pointed out to the graduate, that Rotary has the resources to do great things, but need young folks with expertise like that she has to ensure that their projects are doing the things that are really needed and will not do harm. We have some young folks in the club let's listen to them so that they become engaged in Rotary to make the world a better place.

(Chuck)



A Rotary Thank You to Liz Shea-McCoy for an excellent presentation on Helping Hands and the "Spider Man Episode."



Anniversaries & Birthdays

Weeks of August 1—7

Birthdays:

Milt Schmidt—August 2

Dean Douglas—August 4

Jerry Christensen—August 5

Anniversaries (NONE)



Happy Dollars



*Barry Stelk
Minnie Stephens
Darrel Huenergardt
Jerry Christensen
Greg Schnasse
Tom Mortimer
Dennis Duckworth
Total*

*Al Burdick
Jeanne Garvin
Paul Horton
Dean Douglas
Steve Grosserode
Liz-Shea McCoy
Wayne Casper
\$54.00*



Happy Dollars—Total to Date: \$328.00



Cashier Duty

August—Sue Schuerman
September—Wayne Casper
October—Duane Tappe
Contact Minnie Stephens

Guests & Visitors

Pat Grosserode
Sheryl Mortimer
Liz Shea McCoy

Steve Grosserode
Tom Mortimer
Speaker



Greeter Duty

August 14—Gene Fredericks
August 21—Minnie Stephens
August 28—Tom Mortimer



Lincoln East Rotary Club—August Speaker Schedule

August 14—Mark Orr-Flag Coordinator-Antelope Park, arranged by Duane Tappe

August 21—Karen Lamb "Preacher in an Apron," arranged by Greg Schnasse

August 28—OPEN

*Lincoln East Rotary Club
Spoke Newsletter
Published by Wayne Casper*