

# City of Las Cruces®

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

## Council Action and Executive Summary

Item # 8Ordinance/Resolution# 10-092Council District:     

For September 21, 2009  
(Adoption Date)

### TITLE:

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LOCATION AND PLACEMENT OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> BOMBER GROUP MEMORIAL PLAQUE AT VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK.

### PURPOSE(S) OF ACTION:

To approve the location and placement of the 6<sup>th</sup> Bomber Group Memorial Plaque at Veterans Memorial Park.

<b>Name of Drafter:</b> Mark Johnston, Parks and Recreation Administrator		<b>Department:</b> Facilities / Parks and Recreation		<b>Phone:</b> 541-2550/541-2553	
<b>Department</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Facilities		541-2651	Budget		2300
			Assistant City Manager		2271
Legal		2128	City Manager		2076

### BACKGROUND / KEY ISSUES / CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

In recent months, staff was approached by Veterans' Group Representative, Mr. Stan Dimsha to install a memorial plaque honoring the WWII 6<sup>th</sup> Bomber Group. Mr. Dimsha has suggested that a plaque honoring the veterans be installed on a landscape rock and placed in the vicinity of the Blue Star Memorial.

Mr. Dimsha brought forth the proposal for the WWII 6<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Memorial Plaque to the Veterans Affairs Advisory Board and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The Veterans Affairs Advisory Board (VAAB) reviewed the proposal and sent forth a formal recommendation to approve the memorial plaque and its placement at their July 2009 meeting. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board unanimously approved the concept at their regular meeting of July 2009 and forwarded a recommendation to City Council. In addition, the organization is not requesting any City funding for the project and has agreed to furnish all funds necessary to complete the memorial.

**SUPPORT INFORMATION:**

Fund Name / Account Number	Amount of Expenditure	Budget Amount
N/A	N/A	N/A

1. Resolution
2. Exhibit "A": Memo and Concept Materials from Veterans' Representative, Stan Dimsha
3. Exhibit "B": Veterans Affairs Advisory Board Minutes of July 28, 2009
4. Exhibit "C": Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (Draft) Minutes of July 28, 2009

**OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Vote "YES" and approve the Resolution approving the location and placement of the 6<sup>th</sup> Bomber Group Memorial Plaque.
2. Vote "NO" and deny the Resolution. Denial of the Resolution will result in no memorial plaque being placed at this time.
3. Vote to "POSTPONE" the Resolution and direct staff to pursue other options.

**RESOLUTION NO. 10-092**

**A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LOCATION AND PLACEMENT OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> BOMBER GROUP MEMORIAL PLAQUE AT VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK.**

The City Council is informed that:

**WHEREAS**, since the completion of Veterans Memorial Park, the resounding concept has been to honor as many veterans and or veterans' groups as feasible; and

**WHEREAS**, a group of veterans representing the World War II 6<sup>th</sup> Bomber Group has proposed a memorial plaque and requested that it be carried forward; and

**WHEREAS**, the group has suggested a location and provided conceptual drawings and examples of existing memorials for consideration; and

**WHEREAS**, at this time the committee is not requesting any City funding; and

**WHEREAS**, the Veterans Affairs Advisory Board approved the concept, location and sent forward a recommendation to City Council; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board approved the concept and location and sent forward a recommendation to City Council.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the governing body of the City of Las Cruces:

**(I)**

**THAT**, a WWII 6<sup>th</sup> Bomber Group Memorial Plaque and its location at Veterans Memorial Park is approved.

**(II)**

**THAT**, City staff is hereby authorized to do all deeds necessary in the accomplishment of the herein above.

Res No. 10-092, (Cont)  
Page 2

**DONE AND APPROVED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2009.

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

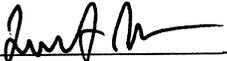
Moved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_

VOTE:

Mayor Miyagishima:	_____
Councillor Silva:	_____
Councillor Connor:	_____
Councillor Archuleta:	_____
Councillor Small:	_____
Councillor Jones:	_____
Councillor Thomas:	_____

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

**City of Las Cruces**®

**TO:** Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
**FROM:** Mark Johnston, Parks Administrator *MJ*  
**DATE:** July 21, 2009  
**SUBJECT:** 6<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Memorial in Veterans Park  
**FILE NO.:** P-09.047

Staff received a request from Mr. Stan Dimsha to install a memorial/plaque honoring the WWII 6<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group. Mr. Dimsha has suggested that a plaque honoring the veterans be installed on a landscape rock and placed in the vicinity of the Blue Star Memorial. Attached to this memo is a rendition of the proposed memorial plaque, and locations throughout the country where similar plaques have been installed. In addition, the organization is not requesting any City funding for the project and has agreed to furnish all funds necessary to complete the memorial.

Mr. Dimsha is requesting that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board review the proposal and forward a recommendation to City Council supporting the installation of the memorial.

Staff will be prepared to discuss the details of the project and report on the Veterans Affairs Advisory Board's recommendation.

Attachments

C: Brian Denmark, Facilities Director *for BD*

**Mark Johnston**

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**From:** Stan Dimsha [stan71244@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2009 4:26 PM  
**To:** Mark Johnston; Glenda Richards; Jeanne Holmes; John; Rebecca DePilippo; Kristy Snyder  
**Subject:** 6th Bomb Group Memorial

Mark Johnston  
Administrator  
Facilities Department  
Project Management Section  
1501-J E. Hadley  
Las Cruces

Hi Mark,

First, thank you for your help and cooperation in this project along with Dan Banks and Ted Novack. The 6th Bomb Group from WW II is having it's Reunion here in Las Cruces officially beginning October 29th and ending November 1st, 2009. The Group is willing to pay all cost associated with getting the Memorial in place. Members of the Group are currently getting prices on a bronze plaque duplicating the picture I furnished your office approximately 18" x 18" and will furnish the plaque to the City to be installed on a large rock in the Veteran's Memorial Park here in Las Cruces hopefully similar to the Special Force Monument. The Group would also like to add below the bronze plaque the reunion date here in Las Cruces also made out of bronze. If there is a dedication by the City the Group would like it to be on Saturday, October 31, 2009 around 10:00 am.

I understand there will be costs associated with this project and I will furnish any funds necessary or needed by the City to continue this project and carry the project forward. I also understand that you will walk the project through the necessary City offices' and I thank you for that effort.

Please consider this e-mail communication the Group's commitment financially to complete this project and notify me of any funds needed whenever needed.

Sincerely,

Stan Dimsha

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Insert movie times and more without leaving Hotmail®. [See how.](#)

# PLAQUE INSTALLED AT...

USAF  
MUSEUM  
DAYTON, OH

USAF  
ACADEMY  
COLORADO  
SPRINGS, CO

NORTH  
FIELD  
TINIAN

GRAND  
ISLAND  
NE

PIMA AIR  
MUSEUM  
TUSCON, AZ

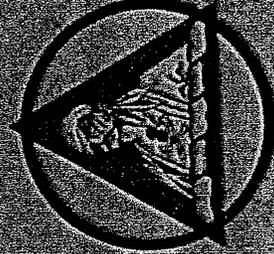
MCDILL  
AFB  
FL



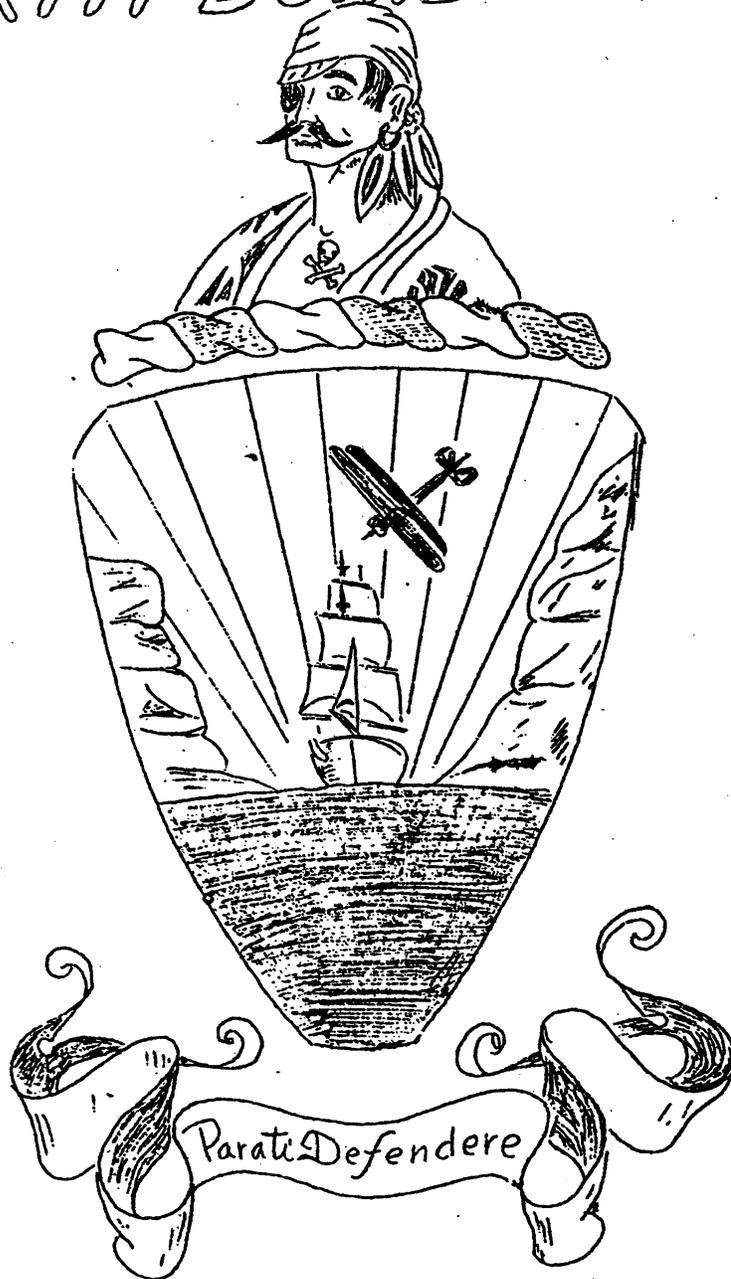
## 6th Bomb Group (VH) 313th Bomb Wing (VH)

IN MEMORY OF ALL THOSE WHO SERVED.  
TO THE COMBAT SQUADRONS  
AND ALL SUPPORT UNITS.  
TO THOSE WHO WERE PRISONERS OF WAR  
AND ESPECIALLY OUR COMRADES  
WHO GALLANTLY GAVE THEIR LIVES  
TO THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM.  
THEY ABOVE ALL HAD VICTORY BY VALOR.

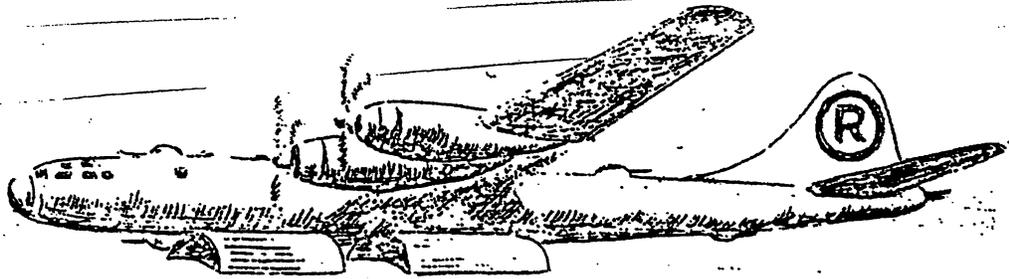
TINIAN ISLAND, MARIANA'S GROUP - 1945  
24TH SQUADRON  
39TH SQUADRON  
40TH SQUADRON



# A SHORT HISTORY of the SIXTH BOMB GROUP



Prepared by Group S-2 Section



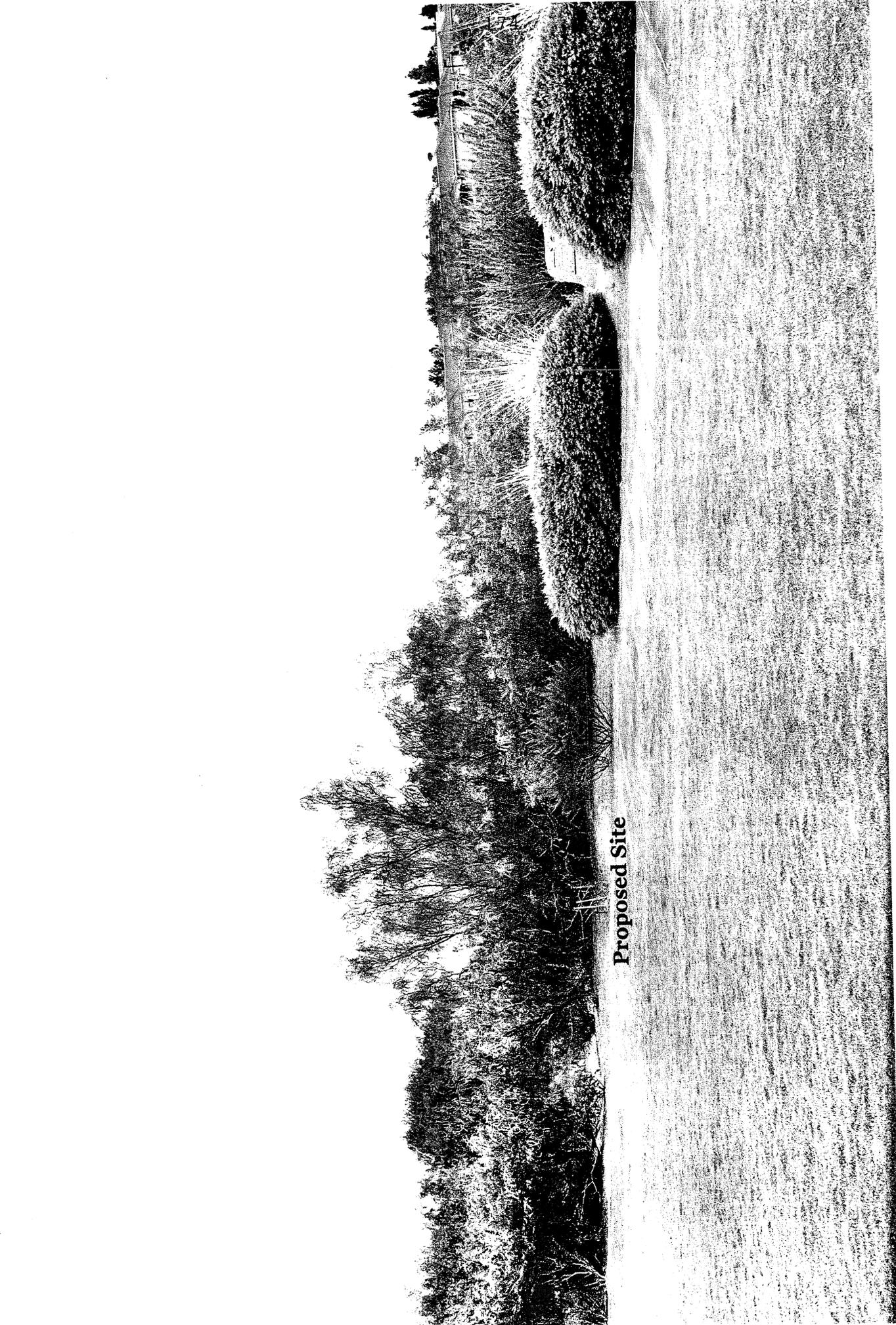
**6<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group (VH)  
313<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing (VH)**



**In memory of all those who served.  
To the Combat Squadrons  
and all support units.  
To those who were prisoners of war  
and especially our comrades  
who gallantly gave their lives  
to the cause of freedom.  
They above all had victory by valor**



**Tinian Island, Mariannas Group – 1945  
24<sup>th</sup> Squadron  
39<sup>th</sup> Squadron  
40<sup>th</sup> Squadron**



Proposed Site



Proposed Site

ROADRUNNER



VETERANS PARK

**Las Cruces Veterans Advisory Board**  
***Minutes of July 28<sup>th</sup> 2009***

**Pledge of Allegiance:****Roll Call:**

American Legion Post 10	Kevin Dasing	Present
DAV Chapter 10	Dan Banks	Present
MOAA	Frank Geisel	Present
Marine Corps League	Jack Petrowsky	Present
Reserve Officers Association	Robert Lory	Absent
Special Forces Association	Mike Bureson	Present
VFW Post 3242	Cosme Padilla	Present
VFW Post 6917	J.R. Turner	Present
VFW Post 10124	Dee Angel	Present
Vietnam Veterans of America	Fred Schneider	Present
Member at Large # 1	Charlie Revie	Present
Member at Large # 2	No Representative	Vacant

**Introduction of Guests:**

Mark Johnston	Parks Dept., City of Las Cruces
Robert Ramsey	Community of Hope
Randy Ranel	DAV Transportation Coordinator
Lester Palmer	DAV Chapter 38
Steve Alexander	Honor Flight 2
Larry Orvis	American Legion Post 10
Paola Banuebs	Co Op Transit, City of Las Cruces
Linda Cowan	Co Op Transit, City of Las Cruces
Dolores Archuleta	Mayor Pro-tem, City of Las Cruces
Virginia Chavez Bell	N M Dept. of Veteran Services
Ed Kellum	Field Rep for Sen. Tom Udall
Melanie Goodman	Field Rep for Sen. Jeff Bingaman
Lewis "Jack" Hagerman	Member of U.S. Navy Armed Guard

**Reading of Minutes:**

Time was allowed to read minutes of previous meeting, motion to accept by C. Revie second by F. Geisel , motion passed

**Program/Presentation of the Month:** Transportation of Veterans to Medical Appointments  
By Randy Ranel, Coordinator of Transportation Services by DAV, Chapter 38  
The presentation was on the services that DAV 38 provides to the veterans of Dona Ana County by providing transportation to the veterans to get them to their appointments at various locations within the V.A. system, clinics in Las Cruces and El Paso and to the V.A. hospital in Albuquerque. Veterans from Deming, Silver City also use this service. He also explained how DAV 38 raises funds to provide this service at no cost to the veteran . The total miles driven last year were 125,000 and 2555 veterans were transported. A pitch to recruit VOLUNTEER drivers was also made with detailed information provided to encourage the VAB members to relay this information to their organizations. Randy also gave a brief explanation of how a new van was being processed into the local fleet of vans used to get veterans to thousands of appointments every year.

**Page Two of VAB minutes for July 2009**

**Program/Presentation continued:**

Randy also provided information of contacts and their phone numbers for a number of V.A. locations and their services within the system. Discussion also covered the State of New Mexico funding to Dona Ana county to provide an additional van, possibly modified to carry wheelchairs. The status of the "Dona Ana Co. van" will be investigated and reported back at a later time and maybe a presentation on who will benefit from it. Questions were received from the members regarding a number of items of interest; driver qualifications, funding resources for DAV 38, opportunities for Veteran organizations to support DAV 38 and the program. The board and guests gave Randy a round of applause for a great presentation and for the work that he and the other drivers do.

**Old Business:** Walk of Honor: Mr. Mark Johnston, Director of Parks Dept. reported on the status of the Walk of Honor program. He displayed the newly redesigned brochures/ order forms and explained the updated (or new) cost of the pavers is \$35 (old price was \$25) to cover the cost of replacement bricks due to damage. Mr. Johnston also announced the bricks will be laser etched by a local company. (It may be best not to share who it is to keep the public from contacting the company directly.) The orders will be done in batches of 25 which will allow more frequent orders in a much shorter time span between orders. The main contact phone number is 541-2550 for now. Only 1000 brochures were printed to allow updating the brochure as needed. Special orders are possible and engraving will be extra. Several questions did come up on special logos and additional items to address.

United Veterans Council: Frank Geisel mentioned that the UVC is 25 years old and it needs all the veteran organizations to participate in it. By-laws need to be updated and a special meeting will be on August 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. at VFW 3242 on Mesquite Ave.

6<sup>th</sup> Bomber Group: Mr. Johnston explained that he was contacted by Mr. Stan Dimsha regarding the 6<sup>th</sup> Bomber Group will be having their annual reunion here in October. They are requesting a memorial plaque be placed in Veterans Memorial Park. It is planned to have the dedication on Oct. 31. Frank Geisel made a motion that we recommend this be allowed to the City council. Several seconds were made and it passed.

U.S. Navy Armed Guard: Mr. Lewis "Jack" Hagerman made a presentation about what and who the U.S. Navy Armed Guard was and what they did to protect cargo ships from enemy attack during World War 2. Mr. Hagerman is requesting that an emblem be put on the Dome in Veterans Memorial Park. Several members expressed concern that maybe more should be done to recognize the "Armed Guard" such as a plaque that would permit the story to be told, as a emblem with just a logo wouldn't inform the public of the true worth of their contributions to World War Two's victory. Only as recently as the Reagan administration were these sailors considered veterans by the V.A. Mr. Hagerman read with considerable pride the total service awards and medals that Armed Guard sailors earned and the losses that they suffered. Funding resources were discussed and this item will be forwarded to the Parks and Recreation Board with our endorsement. Frank Geisel asked Mr. Hagerman to attend the U.V.C. and see what support they can provide. Jack Petrowsky asked about which organizations are on the dome. The organizations on the dome are chartered by Congress or members of the U.V.C. Additional comments supported that the Armed Guard should be recognized with a plaque. Kevin Dasing made a motion that the U.S. Navy Armed Guard be in the park, seconded by Dee Angel

**Page Three of VAB minutes of July 2009****New Business continued:**

U.S. Navy Armed Guard: The motion that we recommend to the Parks and Recreation Board that an appropriate memorial be permitted in Veterans Memorial park passed.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial: Kevin Dasing brought up that he read in the paper that the proposed memorial would be larger than previously allowed. Discussion regarding what was approved in the past for this memorial went on for several minutes. It was agreed that someone should review the past meetings minutes to determine what was voted on.

**Additional items of Interest:**

Veterans Day Parade will be on Wednesday, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> details to follow.  
State Veterans Museum will be dedicated on Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> details to follow

**Upcoming Events:**

Ceremony for Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> will be in Apodoca Park

Additional details will be coming about the ceremony by the August meeting

Antique Show at American Legion Sept. 19-20, poc: K. Dasing 640-7173

U.S.D.R. 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Sept. 20-23, poc: Charlie Revie 522-3317

Women Veterans Conference will be Albuquerque on Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> 8am to 4pm

poc: Virginia Bell 524-6124

6<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Reunion Oct. 29-31, poc: Stan Dimsha

**Good of the Veterans:**

Marine Corps League: Toys for Tots: A storage facility is donating space to keep toys.

Toys for Tots Classic Car and Motorcycle Run will be Sunday Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> see Jack

**It is requested that members bring their event information in printed form with a copy for the secretary so the information can be added to this section of the minutes**

**Holiday Flag Schedule:** Labor Day, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>, Patriot Day, Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, Constitution Day, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>

**Close Meeting....**

**Next meeting will be August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
July 28, 2009**

1 The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting was held on July 28, 2009, at the  
2 WIA Building at 340 N. Reymond Street, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

3  
4 **PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

5 Mr. Gerald Saige, Mr. Isaac Chavez, Mr. Eli Guzman,  
6 Ms. Alice Ward

7 **MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mr. Frank Carril

8 **OTHERS PRESENT:** Mr. Mark Johnson, Parks and Recreation Administrator, Ms.  
9 Cathy Mathews, Landscape Architect, Ms. Ellen Saige, and  
10 Barbara Gomez, Parks and Recreation Administrative  
11 Assistant/P&R Advisory Board Recording Secretary

12  
13 Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

14  
15 Mr. Saige acknowledged the resignations of Mr. Kirk Clifton and Ms. Aphrus Travers.

16  
17 **I. Introductions**

18 **A.** Board Members introduced themselves and stated the district they represent.

19  
20 **II. Approval of Minutes** – There were no corrections to the July 28, 2009, meeting  
21 notes. Mr. Chavez motioned to approve the minutes. Ms. Ward seconded the motion.  
22 Motion passed 4-0.

23  
24 Mr. Gerald Sage voted YES Ms. Alice Ward voted YES  
25 Mr. Isaac Chavez voted YES Mr. Eli Guzman voted YES

26  
27 **III. New Business**

28 **A. Hadley/Manzanita Gateway Design – Informational**

29  
30 Ms. Mathews gave a power-point presentation on the project. She stated that the  
31 design/project is similar to the Jardin de Mesquite Gateway. She is working closely with  
32 the Las Esperanzas Committee on the project. She stated that the area is less than  
33 one-eighth of an acre on a right-of-way owned by the City. Ms. Mathews pointed out  
34 that the gateway would have bancos, concrete culverts, nichos, tile, artwork and  
35 shading.

36  
37 Board Members were going to ask questions when Mr. Johnston said that the questions  
38 would be answered in the next item he is presenting.

39  
40 **B. Naming of the Hadley/Manzanita Gateway – Action**

41  
42 Mr. Johnston stated that staff received a request from Las Esperanzas to name the new  
43 gateway "Entrada Del Sol" (entrance of the sun). The Committee asked that staff bring

1 the recommendation of the name to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for  
2 review and recommendation to City Council.

3  
4 Mr. Guzman stated that his business was previously located in the area where the  
5 gateway is being constructed and that he is concerned that the tagging and vandalism  
6 he experienced in the neighborhood would occur with this project.

7  
8 Board Members asked if other projects in the Mesquite area experience high vandalism.  
9 Mr. Johnson answered that the problem is minimal in the area.

10  
11 Ms. Ward motioned to approve the recommendation to City Council. Mr. Chavez  
12 seconded the motion.

13  
14 Motion passed 4-0.

15  
16 Mr. Gerald Sage voted YES  
17 Mr. Isaac Chavez voted YES

Ms. Alice Ward voted YES  
Mr. Eli Guzman voted YES

18  
19 **C. 6<sup>TH</sup> Bomber Group Memorial - Action**

20  
21 Mr. Johnston informed the Board that Mr. Stan Dimsha had approached the City and  
22 asked to place a memorial at Veteran's Park. He said this project will not require any  
23 City funding. The group is purchasing the plaque and landscaping material. He said  
24 there is already space allocated for such plaques and it will be easy for crews to install.

25  
26 Mr. Chavez asked if this was private funding. Mr. Johnston answered that it is. He  
27 mentioned that the group has installed plaques such as this through out the country.

28  
29 Ms. Ward asked if the 6<sup>th</sup> Bomber Group had ties to Las Cruces. Mr. Johnston  
30 answered that a member of the group had visited Las Cruces and liked the area and  
31 that is why Las Cruces was chosen as a site for the plaque.

32  
33 Mr. Chavez asked how much would this project cost? Mr. Johnston answered that the  
34 plaques cost about \$1200 and \$150 to \$250 for landscape rock.

35  
36 Mr. Chavez motioned to approve the request to place a memorial plaque at Veteran's  
37 Park and approve a recommendation to City Council. Mr. Guzman seconded the  
38 motion.

39  
40 Motion passed 4-0.

41  
42 Mr. Gerald Sage voted YES  
43 Mr. Isaac Chavez voted YES

Ms. Alice Ward voted YES  
Mr. Eli Guzman voted YES

1 **IV. Reports:**

2 **A. Parks Management and Recreation Section Reports for May and June 2009**

3  
4 Mr. Chavez asked that a Board Member Comment Section be added to the Agenda for  
5 comments. *(Barbara was asked to check with the City Clerk if this can be done).*

6  
7 Mr. Chavez stated that he thought Las Cruces being named a Playful City was positive  
8 and good for the City.

9  
10 Board Members asked Mr. Johnston how the transition was going. Mr. Johnston  
11 answered that staff has been very busy. He stated that he will come to the Board with  
12 his plan to have a more manageable supervisory staff. He stated that he currently has  
13 18 people reporting to him and his plan is to make that 8 or 9. He told the Board that he  
14 will come to them for guidance before making any big moves.

15  
16 Mr. Johnston informed the Board that the Leagues/Organizations stipends will go to  
17 Council on August 20, 2009. *(A correction was sent by email with the corrected date of*  
18 *August 10, 2009.)*

19  
20 Mr Chavez informed the Board that the petition for the Quality of Life is not moving  
21 forward until fall, it has been to hot to go door to door. He said a report he saw from the  
22 County Commission was favorable.

23  
24 Ms. Ward asked about the "lost child" incident. Mr. Johnston reported that  
25 administratively speaking it has been addressed and staff is putting things in place as to  
26 minimize or prevent this from happening again. But judicially, it is still uncertain.

27  
28 Mr. Guzman asked if staff had heard about the fights at the baseball park. Mark  
29 answered that the League has by-laws and they go through the League Board first; if  
30 issues cannot be resolved it then comes to the City's Parks and Recreation  
31 Administration Office.

32  
33 **ADJOURNMENT**

34  
35 With no further business, Mr. Saige adjourned the July 29, 2009 meeting at 7:29 pm.

36  
37  
38  
39  
40 \_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara Gomez, Recording Secretary

41 \_\_\_\_\_  
Gerald Saige, Chair P&R Board