

Item 25-0654: Resolution #4-R-25 Rename Appleton Memorial Park to Veteran's Memorial Park

Parks and Recreation Committee

Mon, Jun 09, 2025 6:00PM

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 01:15

We have no public hearings or appearances. I did want to recognize that we have a number of vets joining us this evening, so thank you for coming to the meeting today. Moving on to our first action item, action Item 25-0654, resolution number 4-R-25, rename Appleton Memorial Park to Veterans Memorial Park. Director Gazza, did you want to kick us off? Or—I apologize. Do I have a motion?

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 01:44

[...] to approve.

Alderson Martyn Smith (District 4) 01:49

Second.

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 01:52

What mic number do you have? Director Gazza?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 02:01

Thank you, Chair. The resolution that's before you was something that was initiated really by a visit from members of the veterans community, including the Veterans Council, Jack Voigt, and Mary Beth Nienhaus, who is very much integral in support for veterans. It started with a conversation regarding not having really a dedicated spot for the long term for our veterans' memorials. Several things in the meeting, without going through everything, were cited, including not having memorials for recent conflicts and basically having things somewhat spread out throughout the community. And we discussed all of the improvements that were made out in Memorial Park, specifically that of—that was there from the Ogilvy family, originally, with the dry river bed that was rebuilt and redone very nicely, with the memorial out there, and then the donation by Bassett Mechanical and so forth. And so, we have a site out there.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 03:22

And so, there was some discussion. And then a discussion with Alderman van Zeeland, and it really came together into this resolution that she felt strongly about. And then I know she's had a couple cosigners on that. So that is just kind of a brief, you know, comments. I know there's some people here, possibly to talk. And then I can also address questions that might come up about the current name of the park, Appleton Memorial Park, and, you know, Veterans Park, where it stands today, and so forth. But I'll relieve it for others to speak.

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 04:16

Any comments? Alder Smith.

Alderson Martyn Smith (District 4) 04:24

Yes, thank you. Could I ask Director Gazza for a little more information about the history of Memorial Park? When was it founded? And that name—strikes me that there's a lot of names in the American landscape with "memorial" and a lot of those are basically veterans—the memorial is referring back to veterans, like our Memorial Day. Could you maybe tell us a little bit about the name and when the park came about?

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Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 04:49

I could not find the exact year, but it goes back to when there was Appleton Parks and Recreation Commission. So that goes back to, got to be 80s or before. The park was actually called Langen Dyke Park, and there was a renaming process that took place to rename it. Don't know the specific reason, but then one of the top choices was Veterans Memorial Park, which was interesting, Houdini Park, Jaycee Park, Smith Park, Whitney Park, Birchwood Park, Cherokee Park, so forth, and Park and Play Park, 96 acres Park, just a slew of names, but it ended up falling on Appleton—the name actually isn't on here—Appleton Community Park, but it ended up being Appleton Memorial Park. So, I think they took a mix of park names. But with Veterans Memorial Park being one of the top selections at that time, it was a surprise to us to see that, and seemed what would be a good fit and something be welcomed by the community, since it was already something that was thought as a popular name at that time.

Alderson Martyn Smith (District 4) 06:14

Can I can?

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 06:14

Absolutely.

Alderson Martyn Smith (District 4) 06:15

If I could just follow up. Although I did like the Smith Park option in there of myself, but with the Appleton Memorial Park, it seems like, given the fact that Veterans Memorial Park was on that list, that this was a condensing of that, or that the memorial in question is, in fact, related to veterans.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 06:41

We thought about that too. And we like, you know, I actually like the idea that it added the Veterans Memorial Park, because Appleton is known, that's a given, you know. And so, it's kind of like a name that's there for no reason at all. I mean, in there, it's not really providing any value. We know it's in Appleton. So, replacing "Appleton" with "Veterans" made a little bit more sense to us to be more definitive and to serve.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 07:07

I might as well add, when we were looking at sites, because we said, "Well, are there any other sites?" Did some analysis, and one of the things—accessibility, parking, things that the current Veterans Park does not have—accessibility, no parking, no ADA access, no space for the monuments, no space for growth for the monuments, and would be very much a challenge. And when that was named Veterans Park, we cannot find anything as to why it was named Veterans Park. It was basically named after the bridge originally, and then it was named Veterans Park. So, with this, we would have the parking lot, accessibility, the newly constructed memorials, the areas for growth, the interior space at the Scheig Center, and then Mary Beth Nienhaus has shown some interest in possibly assisting us with a pavilion, a new pavilion dedicated to the veterans. So, there's a lot of excitement around finally dedicating a specific space.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 08:23

Right now, we have memorials in Pierce Park. We have some downtown. We have some, like I said, in Pierce Park, Memorial Park, downtown, and I'm trying to think Alex—

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 08:36

One in storage.

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Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 08:37

They're around the city. So, in the future, as people are thinking of where in to place these memorials, it would be nice to kind of have that dedicated spot too. That was mentioned. Especially dedicating or providing some memorials, there's nothing today on honoring our veterans for our recent conflicts, and this would give us an opportunity then to add those in that location, and have the space to do that.

Aldersperson Martyn Smith (District 4) 09:08

Can I continue? And I—Alder Doherty, might want to continue, so I don't mean to be the only one asking questions, but one thing that would concern me is we've got the name Appleton Memorial Park, and I'm also in favor of having an area where memorials, past ones and also for recent conflicts, could be placed, but I wonder if that leads to the necessity to change the whole park name. So what would happen, for example, if an area in Memorial—Appleton Memorial Park—was kind of called out, as, you know, Veterans Corner or Hero's Pathway or whatever that would look like, and that could be accommodated pretty easily within the park with its current name, Appleton Memorial Park, which already refers to veterans in its intent with that word "memorial", and that people are used to, and that already has signage and various things around the city related to it. So, could—would it be possible to imagine, or is there some reason I'm not thinking of, where the park would maintain its current name, but then we would just kind of move toward having a place to put the monuments that's in Appleton Memorial Park?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 10:29

The only thing I could speak for is my myself on that. I think, you know, maybe hearing from someone the people are here would be a benefit to that. Like I was saying, for me personally in our department, the "Appleton" didn't have a lot of meaning, because we already know it's in Appleton, like I said. Adding the "Veterans", especially if that's going to be the dedicated spot, would just—what I'd say is enforce that that's the location. But if Appleton Memorial Park does it still serve a purpose, I think in knowing there are, you know, memorial there? Certainly, but I do think if I—if I personally, I like that the Veterans Memorial Park. A little bit stronger, if we're going to dedicate that as that specific location.

Aldersperson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 11:24

Alder van Zeeland.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 11:28

Thank you, Chair. It was really my honor to bring this resolution to the Council on behalf of the veterans and veteran advocates. To kind of bookend this conversation a bit, what I thought was most important is that Appleton has a lot of areas where we honor veterans, but it's sort of passive honor. You know, if you don't go read what the statue is about, or you might not even know that the statue is part of the park, you might not visit that part because you're on the playground. You know, this is really giving veterans the honor that they deserve, and in in doing so in a way that isn't going to cost the city a bunch of money to change signs or do anything like that. So, I think that I would hope that my colleagues would vote in favor of this, because I think it's really important for our veterans and for our veterans who have not been honored yet in most recent conflicts.

Aldersperson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 12:33

Thank you. Alder Croatt.

Aldersperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 12:40

Thank you, Chair. Actually have a lot of thoughts, but I'll keep it limited for now. I like the path that Alder Smith was going down with maybe keeping the name of the park the same but having a dedicated area within the park and then referencing that in relation to the name. One of the things—and this Alder van Zeeland brought it up—

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was the cost implications. Do we have any idea what the cost implications would be of renaming the park and everything associated with that?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 13:13

We looked at the signs that are within the park. They use vinyl lettering. We would just replace the "Appleton" with "Veterans." Say \$250, probably a lot less. But just to say everything else is website located. The—oh, there is the sign that we do where we do come in. So, we have the wood sign, and it could be as much as \$1000 I would say.

Aldersonperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 13:48

Yeah, I—well without fully understanding it, I feel like it's a lot more than that, but you would know. It's signage and everything associated with documents and attire and whatever else goes with the park. I just, I mean, I think to move something like this forward, I think we need to understand the cost implications and where that money would be coming from.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 14:13

The—there's no attire or anything like that. It's basically just website, you know, location of the park. There're no documents or addresses or anything like that, that says Appleton Memorial Park on it. The wood sign, our guys—the reason I don't have the numbers, I—we take the wood letters. We buy the wood letters off the internet. We paint them. We take and put them back on the sign, so that isn't a sign maker. The only one that I'm trying to think about, in my mind, is the digital sign—

Aldersonperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 14:42

Ballard?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 14:43

—on the front that—yeah, if we had to take some letters off. So.

Aldersonperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 14:50

Okay. Reason I ask is we recently had an item come before us, and it was related to way-finding signage, and it was very expensive to change signage, come up with the consistent look, and all of that. So just—that's the reason for the question. Thank you.

Aldersonperson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 15:06

Alder Hartzheim.

Aldersonperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 15:08

Thank you, Chair. To follow up on that was—we're kind of glossing over that we have a Veterans Park, and that then would need to, as well, be changed, all the signage there, all the information there. So that's another added cost. I would really be very interested in having this committee request specifics in that regard from Director Gazza's department in terms of what the number would be in that regard. But before we get to those little nuggets, I want to begin by saying I very much support the veterans in this community, and I'm very much behind that. I am just not sure that this is the direction that I would like to take for this city.

Aldersonperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 15:52

I received a few emails from folks saying this feels like a changing the name which is really changing nothing. Now, obviously they didn't know that we were potentially talking about having a consolidation of memorials there, so that kind of negates that feedback. But then there's also—Kaukauna has a Veterans Memorial Park

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right down the road, literally six miles away. So how much confusion would be involved when we already, as a community, know Appleton Memorial Park as, quote, "Memorial Park". So, I don't know that adding the Veterans name in there does what this whole idea is meant to do, and I'm concerned about that confusion involved.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 16:47

And then lastly, another person stated to me that this isn't—this seems sort of out of nowhere. So I don't think there's like community buy in as to this occurring. So I would be interested in, again, further delving into those things before this committee actually makes a decision in this regard.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 17:11

And then, very lastly, when I'm looking at this resolution, I'm concerned about punctuation, because I am a weird nerd in that way, but "Veteran's" (N with an apostrophe S) means one Veteran—one Veteran's Memorial. So, if we are going to do this, I think it has to be truly hammered out how it would appropriately be grammatically correct.

Aldersperson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 17:37

Director Gazza, it looked like you had a comment on that.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 17:39

Yeah. What I would say here is, you know, I know we're talking money is important. I think what we're talking about, what are we doing for our veterans? What have we done for our veterans? What does this mean to the veterans? I think that's the important question. In hearing from the Veterans Council, if we listen, we hear from them, and they say, "It doesn't matter if it stays up to Memorial Park or Veterans Memorial Park," maybe the word "veterans" is very important. And I think before we go further in a discussion, it'd be very important to hear from them, because it's all started—it was initiated from a group bringing this forward to me. So, what does it mean to them and why? Why this?

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 18:24

Could I please follow up in that regard? All three of the comments that I received were from people who stated, initially, "I am a veteran, and I am not behind this at this point."

Aldersperson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 18:35

Thank you, Alder Hartzheim. Alder Wolff.

Aldersperson Nate Wolff (District 12) 18:41

Thank you, Chair. I actually also would love to hear from the veterans in the room. I do have my thoughts on this, but after thinking about that, I would like us to allow them to speak on it, just to see how they feel that this is important to them. My change—my reasoning of questioning or how we proceed. I am concerned with how we're paying for this, but it does seem like we might have private donors somewhere there trying to help us, so that might not be an issue, but again, might be nice to hear from them.

Aldersperson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 19:19

And Alder Fenton, I see you, but it sounds like there's a lot of discussion about wanting to hear from our veterans. Would any of you gentlemen like to give your thoughts on this? If you would like to step to the podium.

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Jack Voigt 19:37

Good evening. Thank you, Chair and aldermen. About 40 years ago, I sat in your position on the Park and Rec department—I should say the Park and Rec Commission, as a member of the city council for 10 years, Council President. I've been very active in the veterans community for the last—ever since I left Vietnam. **[His phone rings and he turns it off]** I'm sorry. But about 40 years ago, I thought our community needed a Veterans Park, and I introduced a resolution to the city council about 40 years ago. I don't know the name of the park, but I think it was called Citizens Park on South Memorial Drive. And the council went along and says, "Yes, we need a Veterans Park in the city of Appleton," and it was renamed Veterans Park as I suggested. That was the name to be given to it. Well, if you look at Veterans Park today on South Memorial Drive, nothing has changed in those almost 40 years.

Jack Voigt 20:47

I met with the mayor about three months ago. I said, "Veterans Park, nothing has changed there in 40 years; either take down the sign or do something." And he says, "I'll do something." We had two other meetings with the mayor, and it's a bold statement here, a statement that about 7% of our population are veterans in this community, and we take our various memorial services, Flag Day, Memorial Day, and these, all these other activities in our community—we are serious about honoring our fellow veterans as fallen as well as current members. And I think—I don't know, ma'am, the three veterans you spoke to, I didn't know their names. I'd like to speak with them personally, but the point is, we all have a voice. The voice is, I think, quite clear that there will be a lot of support.

Jack Voigt 21:53

And I, at the time I met with the mayor, I thought there's some opportunities to really enhance the improve and improvements at Veterans Park which is part of his district, and I don't know what his position is, he made a public statement to the press channel two today. They—he supports the idea of having Memorial Park—Appleton Memoria Park—Veterans Park, unless he's changed his mind. But the point is that was my district as well, and I think it's very appropriate to have—it's a bold statement, a very bold statement, that we honor our veterans because they are active community members in our community, and certainly other activities should continue at this park, and they—I'd like to see a comprehensive plan. A plan of what is going to happen at this park is important, as well as any cost associated with it. I think cost is a insignificant portion of the of the of the solution to this resolution of this situation, because I think there funding is not the point. It's not going to be the point what occurs here at Memorial Park—Veterans Park.

Jack Voigt 23:15

I think past veterans, current veterans and future veterans would really be honored to have this big park as called as Veterans Park. I think aldermen, you should go to other veterans parks, specifically, for example, in La Crosse. There's a huge park down there, beautiful park. We need to look at their different sites of what they do for veterans in their in their cities. I think you'd be astounded. Really, I think you should have that opportunity to see what other communities have done for veterans and compare what we have done. We have done nothing in the park system. The park system has been changed, and I think that's the overall approach. What do we do for our veterans and our community, and what will happen? We need a plan. Money is not the issue. The issue is honoring fellow veterans who have fallen, who have served, who is serving, as well as in the future, and we certainly, as veterans, give a lot to this community. Thank you.

Aldersperson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 24:24

Thank you. Go ahead, sir. I'm sorry I was asking if the other gentleman would like to speak.

Tim Cody (Fox Valley Veterans Council - President) 24:33

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak. My name is Tim Cody. I'm the president of Fox Valley Veterans Council. If you don't know what that is, that is a 501c3, nonprofit for veterans. It is made up of veteran organizations. Over 35 veteran organizations are members of this council.

Tim Cody (Fox Valley Veterans Council - President) 24:50

I've had the privilege to actually do Memorial Day ceremonies and Veteran Day ceremonies for the city of Appleton. The mayor has asked me to talk at veterans park, and I've got to talk at Memorial Park. I can tell you the three times I got to speak at Veterans Park, there was the mayor there, there was a TV camera there, there was the honor guard there, and that's it, because that's all that can exist at Veterans Park, because there's not a parking spot there, anywhere, that you can park unless you park in somebody's neighborhood. When we did the ceremony at Memorial Park, there were 60 or 70 people there.

Tim Cody (Fox Valley Veterans Council - President) 25:36

I can tell you, I'm not from Appleton. I really wish I was, because I love this city, and—but when I came here, I worked right across from Memorial Park. It had no indication at all that it's for veterans in any way, shape, and/or form. Memorial is not just for veterans. It can be for lots of people. There's a Memorial Gardens a few blocks west of there. Just calling it Memorial isn't going to indicate that it's for veterans. There is a space there. There's parking there.

Tim Cody (Fox Valley Veterans Council - President) 26:14

I have also talked to the mayor about our monuments, and I gotta tell you, for me, living and breathing veterans are the most important thing, because my charity deals with veterans who are in need, and so—but one of our missions is to honor our veterans. You can satisfy my mission statement in three words, "To assist connect and honor." Honor is the one that we do. We do the Veterans Memorial parade, and hopefully some of you have gone to that and seen our wall of honor that we put on an 18-wheel truck that has every single veteran who's died in Outagamie County on that. And there's nowhere outside in this city that that exists. And I will say that Jack Voigt is correct when you go around to other places, their Veterans Memorial Parks are pretty significant.

Tim Cody (Fox Valley Veterans Council - President) 27:17

I don't believe money is not an issue, and I completely agree that we should have the understanding of what it would cost. What is it going to cost to change the signs? But I'm pretty sure over all the civil—civic projects that we've done here in the city of Appleton, that if we're just talking about changing signs, it's not going to be that much. But more importantly is what is it worth to honor our veterans? What is it worth to this city? We've got Soldier Square, where we have one of the most beautiful monuments in this state, and it's hiding behind trash cans and a parking garage because sometimes Appleton decided to take a boulevard, a beautiful boulevard, and turn it into parking, but left that statute there. We have the Spanish War memorial sitting in a corner of Pierce Park that nobody even knew was there 'til someone started weed whacking. We had our dough boy that almost fell apart before there was a great movement to fix it back up and put it there. That's kind of a sad commentary on what Appleton treats in those Veteran Memorials.

Tim Cody (Fox Valley Veterans Council - President) 28:26

I think this is an easy way to fix that. You have the largest park in the city. It has plenty of space. It has the ability to house events that can occur and make them large, significant events for the city, and it will all be there. You don't have to worry about forgetting about it. You don't have to worry about buildings coming in and parking garages coming in and all those other things that are needed downtown. So, to me, this seems like a really pretty good fix to what I think is potentially is has kind of been a problem with the city of Appleton, and that, and I don't mean that negatively to any of the folks. There are all kinds of competing things, and sometimes

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things just get shut aside and shut aside one at a time, maybe decades away from each other, but it becomes cumulative, and that's my perception from somebody who moved here in 2016. As I went around the Fox Valley and looked at other cities and areas like that, as a veteran, I was like, "Wow, one of the most beautiful cities in the Fox Valley, and that's the one thing that's really kind of missing."

Tim Cody (Fox Valley Veterans Council - President) 29:35

So that's just my take. I think it's I think it's a great proposal. I think it's a proposal that you don't need to rush into. I understand. Let's figure out what it is, what the money's going to cost, but if not there where? That will be my question to you, because when I talk to the mayor about Soldier Square, how are we going to fix that up? Well, it's going to cost a lot of money. Maybe move this. I mean, it's always kind of one thing pushed down the line, and I think unfortunately that's occurred too much concerning this issue. Thank you.

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 30:08

Sir, would you like to speak?

Jonathan Plypiv (Fox Valley Veterans Council - Community Engagement Manager) 30:16

Good evening. Thank you, City of Appleton council members and Council Chair for allowing the opportunity to speak. My name is Jonathan Plypiv. I'm the Community Engagement Manager for the Veterans Council, local, Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran, previous resident of the city. I work in the city. I do pretty much everything in the city.

Jonathan Plypiv (Fox Valley Veterans Council - Community Engagement Manager) 30:38

This city of Appleton is an incredible place. So much to do. This is where I tell people where I'm from if I'm from out of state, they don't know. I don't say Green Bay. I say Appleton. I really—I live in Kimberly, but I love the fact that I can say Appleton, because I want them to know where that is too. In my role at the Veterans Council, we know like as Tim had mentioned, we have veterans that we assist with basic needs and connect them to resources and opportunities. There's a lot of veterans that are struggling, and there's a lot of veterans that the meaning of the word veteran is a big part of their identity. And we talk about costs and opportunities, and I wonder, consider the cost that some of our veterans and their families have paid for our nation. We have veterans that we know of, that we assist, that we lose to cancer. We have veteran families that are left without their spouse. We have veterans that never came home because they shed blood abroad. This is one of the reasons why the word veteran is so important, because it's earned. It's not just the title given.

Jonathan Plypiv (Fox Valley Veterans Council - Community Engagement Manager) 31:46

And I think there's veterans right now, they don't have many days left. So I really do think that many of our veterans in our community, if we have an opportunity to hear for more input, they would love to see the veteran name be more prominent in our community, because I do see the count—I see the memorials through our city, and I see we do place a lot of prominence to, like a magician, Harry Houdini, that Houdini Plaza very prominent, but Soldier Square is kind of hidden. We have a passive as the alderperson indicated, we have a lot of passive support. We have a lot of community members that do care about our veteran support, many in this room too. But I think that changing that name, adding to that, really helps amplify that. It shows that veterans are remembered. It's not just a word; it's their service, it's their family and everything that they we stand for as a nation, which is our freedom that's earned by our veterans. Thank you for the opportunity.

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 32:49

Yes, thank all three of you for your service and for providing your color commentary on the issue at hand. We really—it helps a lot hearing your thoughts. And Alder Fenton.

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Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 33:06

Thank you, Chair. I don't want to repeat the comments of some of my colleagues have made, but when I was doing my homework for this meeting and I and I saw this resolution come forward, I wrote down a list of questions and we've discussed some of them, the, you know, the cost of the signage, the—one of the questions I have that I don't think has come up, is do we have an inventory of what memorials we would be relocating? And it seems like there—and I also had the, you know, as the—an English person and the mother of an English teacher. I had the same issue with the punctuation that, you know, regardless of what we do with this, I'd like to see it change to the—but so we have to—and I've been to the ceremonies on Veterans Day at the current Veterans Park. It's very tiny. I was late because I couldn't find a parking space, and there wasn't room for everybody, and I went to the ceremony last year with the new memorial in Memorial Park.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 34:15

But like some of my colleagues, I also—and Director Gazza said—I tried to research the history of how Appleton Memorial Park became Appleton Memorial Park and just exactly what it was a memorial to, and I couldn't find that. You know, I found the acreage and the year it was established, and Director Gazza has better information than I do about the potential names. I like the idea of having a true, large, dedicated Veterans Memorial Park.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 34:52

I think we have a lot of questions that we need to answer, and what I would really like to see with this resolution is that it get referred to staff and come up with some numbers—some actual numbers. And you know what, what the plan is for renaming the current Veterans Park, what the cost would be for signage, for everything, a proposal for what monuments we might want to move, a plan for whether that would be put in—you know, I know I'm just as annoyed when I walk through Soldier Square and dumpsters and parking lots, and I'm not a veteran, but I have them in my family, and I kind of think that's a travesty, because we can't take out parking places to honor our veterans. But I'd like to see this come back with some more numbers on it and a plan as to whether we need to budget for some of these moves in the CIP, whether we want to have some robust fundraising to move some of these monuments. But while I am absolutely in favor of having a better Veterans Memorial Park, I—at this point, I need to see something with more form before I'll support it in council. And I see Alder Van Zeeland is waving her sign as well. Thank you.

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 36:22

First, I want to go to Director Gazza. Do we have anything, any inventory of monuments, any plans about movement that would help this conversation?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 36:31

Yes, Sculpture Valley did a real detailed inventory of all of our monuments. So, I would refer to those documents and speak with Alderson Schultz further about collecting that.

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 36:46

All right. Alder Can Zeeland.

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 36:47

Thank you, Chair. Could Director Gazza talk about—in in the budget, I was certain that we had funding set aside for the reconstruction of these monuments, and I had sort of assumed that the cost of moving them would be covered with some of those funds and with donor funds. Hoping he could—can you hear me?

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 37:19

Yes, you're good.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 37:20

Yes, thank you. Sorry. Just hoping that maybe he could speak to that further.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 37:25

Absolutely. That that's a great question. So, every other year, we budgeted \$30,000, which is in the capital improvement plan, to update our statues and monuments, because they had been left in such, I'd say, deplorable condition over the years. And so, each year we, like we did with the Soldiers Square monument, we added back the parts that were missing and had it refinished. There are the types of projects we do with the monuments. Whether we go out and buy missing plaques that were stolen at one time or buy missing components, or we've had done—used some money for a little bit of engineering analysis to determine what would be needed and how we could best display some of these monuments.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 37:44

You bring up a good point, though, rather—there always has been a plan, and that CIP does exist in the capital improvement plan to move forward and restore these monuments. It doesn't make sense to restore them where they're at. We'd restore them somewhere else. So the plan has always been there and approved for the long term to restore these in their current location. There's some of them that make sense to move. Now the monument downtown, that one would be definitely something that I'm not sure is feasible to move, but many others could be moved. But I think there should be discussion about each one, what they mean, where should—where does it make sense to move them? But this wouldn't be something on the second you vote, all of a sudden we go and move every monument that the city has out there. I think this would be part of that plan, the capital improvement plan, and we'd just continue to move them as we restore them and fix them.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 39:16

[...] you, chair?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 39:22

I'd say the dough boy was the first one that we redid, I should add. So, there's been some big investments made to restore a couple of those monuments, but there are more to go.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 39:34

[...] continue to chair?

Aldersperson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 39:35

Yes.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 39:37

Thank you. I just—I feel very disappointed in the way this conversation is plotted. You know, so I just want to clarify again, I could understand the frustration if, if folks thought this was like Katie's magic idea, that I was going to throw another word on top of Memorial Park and be a hero. But this is driven by veterans and their advocates, and we have a commitment for a donor to help us fund this. What we need to get started to work on funding and to actually put a plan together is the go ahead to rename the park. That's what we need to get this done. And I would encourage all of my colleagues who fervently support our veterans to show that today. Thank you.

Aldersperson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 40:37

Alder Schultz.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 40:39

Thank you, Chair. I'm sure people are eager to hear from me, give some historical context in my position on this. But first, I'd like to say thank Jack, Tim, and Jonathan, for your passionate words in speaking to what veterans would like to see in this community. And, as well, I'd like to just recognize Director Gazza who established that line item in our budget in 2015 and has worked successfully over a decade to restore really well restored Dough Boy and civil war memorials with a couple others on deck to be restored. So, I mean, those things should not be left unsaid, that the city has been doing some good work in the last decade or so, and I'm thankful for that, and thankful for them working with Sculpture Valley identified these things. And we've gotten to the point now where the city of Appleton has taken ownership of all the memorials and working to get them restored, which is part of this conversation.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 41:36

There's a lot of history here, and the simple title of this resolution, renaming the park, that's pretty clean cut. That's pretty simple thing to wrap your head around. As you dig into some of the, be it resolved ideas and plans to relocate sculptures, now you're opening up a lot of a lot of large conversations and conversations that, frankly, have already had a lot of history. We've been working for a decade now to try and restore Soldier square, and have just basically hit brick walls because of the changes and the delays related to what's happening around that space. And it seems like every two years, something else changes and something new happens. And so those opportunities have come and gone over the years, and I should remind this committee and the Council that we passed a resolution to hold on the Spanish American War Memorial until such time as the city decides what they're going to do with Soldiers Square, and that decision hasn't been made yet.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 42:40

So, there's a there's a lot to unpack with everything that is beyond just naming this park. So, some might question, why would I sign up sign on this resolution? Well, it's that first line, and I think because Veterans Park is in my district, and I know the challenges. I've been to many of those ceremonies in that space. And I see how long it takes for staff and veterans and honor guards, color guards, and even bands to move from 3, 4, 5 blocks away just to get to that space and time and set up. And it simply isn't a place that's conducive to any kind of programming. And I think that's—I think that's where this originated: we have a place called Veterans Park, and it doesn't serve veterans. I mean, there has been something added to that since it was first named. There's a small stone, I think it's a JFK quote, and there's a large flag. But beyond that, I would agree with Jack, nothing else has happened in that space, and because it simply isn't conducive to anything being done in that space. So that's why I signed on the resolution.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 43:48

I think doing something in a much larger park, whether we rename it Veterans Memorial Park, or just recognize a part of it for that, I think is significant, and I think adding the name would probably do more public good from a from a perspective that we're supporting veterans than not; although I'm open to whatever—wherever we go as a body when we're talking about that space. But I do like the notion of having an area that is already sort of demarcated by the restored river war memorial that can accommodate new memorials, because that's the other thing that I've certainly noticed is missing, and I've been working to address through the Soldiers Square project. But even that has sort of again, come up against a brick wall. No pun intended.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 44:37

But we don't have any memorials for the recent desert conflicts. I don't think we have anything for the Vietnam conflict in this in the city proper. There are some memorials out there. But that's the other opportunity I think

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this would present. I would certainly want a really detailed plan of what that looks like in the in that park space. But that's essentially why I'd support this and why I signed on.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 45:05

Now I'm certainly fine sending it back to staff, and I'd actually have—I'd like some conversations internally about the other Be It Resolved clauses and looking at this inventory, because I don't—in my mind, I'm not sure that there are that many existing memorials that we could move in place in a new space. But for me, it is about what's been missing. And I think the veterans you hear tonight, that's what their passion is for as well. They just don't have a very open, communal, public park that honors veterans in a way that's really evident. They're scattered around the community. We certainly have a lot of memorials, plaques, and markers in the city of Appleton in the Fox Valley, but we don't have a significant veterans park that is a veterans park. I might have some more to say, but that's it for the moment.

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 45:12

Alder Smith.

Alderson Martyn Smith (District 4) 45:58

Thank you, and I'd also like to thank the veterans who came in to speak. And I agree that we need to find a fix, one of—the word that one of you used for the situation and the center. And one of you asked, "If not there, where?" And I agree that Memorial Park would have a lot of space and it could accommodate these monuments.

Alderson Martyn Smith (District 4) 46:20

It seems like we have a problem, on the one hand, with a park that has the right name, but no monuments and not kind of a setting that allows for the kinds of events that we'd like, and the other hand, we have a park with a name that's that that is that could work, but there's no monuments or really a center for—that makes it feel like this is set apart or special for veterans, and I think that that is something that we as a city should work on and develop.

Alderson Martyn Smith (District 4) 46:48

I guess I kind of moving forward, I'm a little bit, like—I feel like the name and all these monuments in a special place where we gather these monuments are two separate issues, and we can, we can, you know—I would like to get more information about what the space with the monuments, where it would be in Memorial Park, what that would look like, and a larger plan. So, I guess I'm not comfortable just moving ahead and voting on the name of the park and then letting things move from there, but I would like to refer this back and get a kind of larger plan for the area where these monuments would come in, what that would look like, what the timing would look like, what the cost would be for that. And from what I heard from the veterans who each spoke, is a concern for a special marked place for these monuments; that was important, at least as important, as the name, and that's something that I think we should have brought together into a package before we proceed. And so, I'm not comfortable proceeding just on the name.

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 48:06

Alder van Zeeland. I see you. I just want to jump in the conversation myself here. This means a lot to me, coming from a family of veterans. I know both my grandfathers were very proud of the way they served, and I saw their uniforms and their flags all the time, and they showed me what it meant to them. And when I look at the monument that we have out today near the Scheig Center, it's kind of the ideal place. It's very peaceful, it's very accommodating. I know when my grandfathers got older, they weren't as mobile as they were before. So doing something like this I could see meaning a lot more than a name change to some people, and the price that some

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of them paid is probably worth the few thousand that we're [unclear] over here. So, moving on to Alder Van Zeeland.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 49:03

Thank you, Chair. I just wanted to address the question about the apostrophe in Veteran's Park, because it is also a question I had initially when I was reading through the information that Director Gazza provided to me. So, I actually did a little research to see if that was an appropriate way of naming the park. And it turns out that typically people do Veteran apostrophe S, or they do Veterans without an apostrophe.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 49:40

And the reason I decided to move forward with it with the apostrophe is because of something that I found out on a news site, and I'm just going to read it like someone had written in to add their piece of whether it should be. Veteran's with an apostrophe or without, and they said, "I'd like to use this space to publicly thank a veteran, just one veteran, the one. His name, I do not know. Whether he served his country during World War I or the Mexican American War or the Civil War or the invasion of Granada, I know not, and apparently nobody else does either. So, we just named the park Veteran's Park. It's his; all his." So that's why I think that it should remain the way that it is. I think that's really powerful when you say, "Thank a veteran." You know, it's "the" veteran that we're thanking, not collectively veterans—"the" veteran.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 50:46

And I guess I just wanted to talk a little bit more about the funding side of this. I hear the committee saying that they have questions and questions about the grander plan of this. But the reality is, right now, if we don't move forward with the plans that are listed in the resolution, then we can't also say that we have donor funding for this project. I'm wondering if Director Gazza could talk a little bit more about the donor side of this.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 51:26

Absolutely. I can add. You know there was interest, as I noted before, for making this area a better area and making sure that there is a pavilion and an outdoor space that could also accommodate events, as well as indoor space that we already have with the Scheig Center. So that's where the interest lied with that. Haven't had much more conversation than that, but in order to make that occur, that would be a significant contribution to provide an outdoor pavilion type space closer to that area. What's interesting about that, I should say, is everything seems to be interconnected in one way or another. As you know, the pavilion on the back side of the hill has been deteriorating, and there's been a plan in the capital improvement plan to replace that pavilion on the north side of the hill. This would basically solve that issue for us, if this commitment would come through. So, in some cases, we may be concerned about a few dollars here, but the whole project as a whole, we might make it up in other areas, just because it will solve other issues.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 52:45

For me personally, you know, it was interesting. I really became passionate about the resolution just because of my family and history with the veterans too. And for me, I'm just going to speak directly. It's less about money and how we—and more about how we memorialize our veterans. It's we have what we have today because of them. Nothing less, nothing more. It's long overdue. So, I generally don't want to throw my bias into it, but on this one I'm going to because I'm so passionate about it.

Aldersperson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 53:27

Alder Hartzheim.

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Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 53:29

Thank you, Chair. I do not at all disagree with the last sentiment from Director Gazza. However, we still have the responsibility to manage the funding in the city. So, it is important; it is not the most important thing. I would like to be made aware of whether the potential donors are placing a contingency upon this plan. So, if we do not accept this resolution directly, as is then is there no public—or private funding involved? It seems like there's almost this connection that Director Gazza was making in that regard. So that's of concern to me.

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 54:13

And also, I'm wondering if there's other ways to approach this. Perhaps, if the plan is to put an entire section of monuments, memorials, et cetera, within the park, could it not be the veterans monuments of honor in Appleton Memorial Park as was initially suggested by Alder Smith? That still does the honoring; that actually dedicates a part of this park specifically to honoring our veterans, while the rest of us still refer to it as Memorial Park. So, it would be veterans—whatever we intend to call it—within in Appleton Memorial Park. I want to explore that with the input of the Veterans Council as well, just to make sure that all of the boxes are checked before we make a decision in this regard. Thank you.

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 55:18

And I just want to let you know Alder Van Zeeland, I see you. Working through the list; I'll get to you. Alder Croatt.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 55:24

I'll yield to Council President Van Zeeland.

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 55:27

Okay. Van Zee—Alder Van Zeeland.

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 55:30

Thank you, Chair. I just wanted to make it very clear I have not had any discussions with anyone on the Veterans Council or the donors. The urgency—I wasn't saying, you know, if we don't do—if we don't do exactly what it says here, we won't get funding. I don't actually know, which is why I deferred to Director Gazza. But what I what I do see happening now is we just had a discussion about, well, maybe we have a portion of this park where it's all it's for veterans. And the thing is, we're talking about \$1,000 to change a sign. That's—the fact that we're even discussing that, I think, is a slap in the face to the people who are there right now and to the people who will learn about this later. We will have the opportunity to approve any other funding that goes towards this should we decide to do that, but to argue over \$1,000. I mean, I can pay for that myself, if that's what this comes down to. The veterans have told us what they want, and I just can't see, after how selfless they've been for us, to have this discussion because of what they've done for us, that we're going to sit and argue about \$1,000 and changing a sign. Thank you.

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 56:58

Alder Wolff.

Alderson Nate Wolff (District 12) 57:01

Thank you, chair. So, I know that that's come up again, and I mentioned earlier how I was concerned with costs. If you want to clarify that when I was thinking of overall costs for this—right?—I was looking at the moving costs, the labor costs to move this thing, the cost of, you know, restoring that as well, and potentially the cost, if it gets damaged in transit, how long is it going to sit there damaged. You know, like, there are multiple variables here. And if it's just \$1,000 and that's all that it's going to cost, it's obviously no big deal, right? But there's no,

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like, any kind of price number in there. So, you have a range of \$1000 to potentially \$100,000, and you're sitting here like, "I don't, I don't know." So that's more what I'm looking for. So, if it's \$1,000 that's absolutely nothing, right? We could come up with that in 10 minutes.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 57:59

Let me clarify. The resolution does indicate it provides an opportunity to consolidate—consolidate all the memorials. Doesn't say you have to. Doesn't say it has to be done in 10 years or 20 years. Actually, I think maybe it should be stricken from the resolution, because that ain't what they asked for initially. The main point is to have a central spot, a designated spot, that's prominent to recognize our thing. The side—the other note on the memorials is this: there's been a CIP that's been in the budget for at least five years, if not more—well, you said even maybe 10 years—for statues and monument resolution that lists every one of those monuments that this council, the council before, the council before, the council before has supported that CIP and being part of this budget for almost a decade. So, the idea of moving the monuments at some point has always been supported. Does it have to be part of this resolution and the cost of this resolution? No. Take it out.

Aldersperson Nate Wolff (District 12) 59:02

I just, I just wanted to, you know, point that out, that, like, you got to think about those things. If I could follow up, you know, like—and again, like, it's not an issue for me. If you want to spend \$250,000 or \$2.5 million on our veterans, I'm fine with that, but what we do with that money is also important to me. So, if we want to borrow \$2.5 million and build them affordable housing for homeless veterans, I'm good with that too. I do think maybe we should. You know, I think about that often. So that's really important to me. So, if we're spending a lot of money, I'd much—you know that's in there too.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 59:51

And that's what I'm saying, is maybe you should be taking that out of the resolution, because it's already covered in a CIP that's been in budgets for a decade. So, take it because it's being actually double recorded, one in this and one in there, and leave it in the CIP.

Aldersperson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 1:00:07

And Director Gazza, to your point, the resolution actually calls for a plan to relocate them. It's not the actual relocation. So that is—it's not part of this resolution at all. It's just a plan, which a plan costs us pretty much nothing. So on to Alder Smith, and then we're going to Firkus.

Aldersperson Martyn Smith (District 4) 1:00:26

Thank you. I think it was Mr. Voigt who mentioned that one of the problems with Veterans Park is that it just remained a name. There wasn't—it just stayed the same. We didn't have monuments. So, I don't agree with the idea that we should split and have a plan with a name that doesn't include some specifics about the monuments and when they're going to arrive, and that's what I would like to see. And I do think it's our job on Parks and Rec to maintain the coherence of our parks, and if we're changing the entire name to Veterans Memorial Park, I'd like to know, what—are these monuments spread throughout the park? Or in a specific area? I'd just like to be able to talk about what are the different ways that we could handle this.

Aldersperson Martyn Smith (District 4) 1:01:12

I think the end result, I hear everybody in agreement with that we would like veterans, people who have served our country, to have a place where there can be events, where people can park, where there can be—we can do the do that right, and honor them in the way that they should be honored. But I just think we should have not just this name but a plan for what we're actually going to do and what that's going to look like, and how much

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it's going to cost. And we should have that before we vote on anything. And it would—to me, it doesn't make any sense to just say we're going to have a veterans park without a plan for what happens next.

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 1:01:48

Director Gazza, is it safe to say that the plan is part of this resolution? You're going to draft the plan after this resolution, and then any action taken on that plan will be taken up by council at a future—as those come, correct?

Alderson Martyn Smith (District 4) 1:01:59

I mean, I disagree that we're thinking too much about it. I think that the problem that was stated earlier with the veterans park that we have is that it just got a name and nothing ever happened. I think we should—and I don't understand. Scheig has come up. The on the other, you know, fairly distant from that is the shell with the on the on the hillside; that's a very different part of the park. There's—I mean, I can see there's going to be open space for these monuments, but I think we should plan and have a place where this is going to happen.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 1:01:59

I think you know, even when you talk about talking creating a plan is this elaborate process. The plan is the plan is renamed the park Veterans Memorial Park, so everybody knows that it's a designated location and that future memorials will be put in that location. That's it. That's really it. Now, if money comes about, or a donor comes and wants to put a memorial, we know where it's going. If we have money that gets approved in the budget process, in the capital improvement plan to move a monument, the idea would be the plan, maybe that's three years, would be to move that monument within this area. That's actually the plan. There is no plan. I mean, one could say, well draw—draw up a landscape, architectural plan with sidewalks and ADA access and flags and a walk away with all that. That ain't the idea. There—I'm trying to—and I'm trying to interpret what they're asking. They want a prominent place. The name, which is the cost, I think we're getting we're thinking too much about it.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 1:03:34

I should ask. I don't—just basically what you're saying—I don't think you've been to Scheig to see that the memorial. It's a huge flag that was donated by Bassett that was put on a concrete structure. There's big seating areas. There's a huge walkways with passive areas to sit and reflect along the water. So if you're a veteran you want to reflect, it's a beautiful space that's already been created and represents that. And it does say item about veterans memorial right on it. So, it isn't like respe—starting with a piece of bare grass. There's been probably \$500,000 worth of investment that sits right there off the new parking lot that already has been constructed. So, there is a place already. We wouldn't be creating the place. The place exists. So hopefully that—if you get time stop out there you you'll be very impressed.

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 1:04:29

And as we go on, I would just caution people to not be argumentative and are—just like your comments. Address the body. And Alder Firkus, what number are you? Waiting very patiently.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 1:04:42

Thank you, Chair. I want to think about this kind of in reverse, and there already have been remarks made about the existing Veterans Park. It's nice for a neighborhood park, but it is terrible for any sort of community events. If we wanted to say "You know what? This is not a good space for events, especially events honoring veterans," you would probably want to remove that name from that park. If we were sitting here today and we were just unilaterally saying we're going to just rename Veterans Park, I would understand if there were people who were very upset that we were erasing that name from a park in this community.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 1:05:22

Putting that name on Memorial Park and having a vision of what that means, I think is a really good idea. I think that we don't need to have every square inch of this planned out. We don't have to have everything hammered out. I think having a vision, having that first step here with the name renaming, to consolidate and put this focus on one space that we as a community can develop and nurture is a good approach. I don't want to see us get into analysis paralysis where we have to have every feature and every little bit of pavement and concrete and grass and flowers planned and accounted for before we can even take one step. We're not committing the whole shebang in one shot. We're renaming it. We're outlining a vision, and we're moving in that direction.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 1:06:22

So, if this—if the committee needs to hold, prefer that staff work out some minor details, okay, sure. But this is something that should be pretty easy for us to approve and pretty easy for us to find the minimal amount of money. Look at some of the things that come through this body that are hundreds to thousands of times more expensive than this, and we pass without hardly any discussion, and here we are, hour and 15 minutes into something that might cost the taxpayers, low, low, low, four figures.

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 1:06:57

Thank you. All right. Alder Schultz.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 1:06:59

Thank you. I think the fact that we've been here for an hour and 15 minutes says something about what we're trying to resolve in this community. And I think we're talking about a number of things, but we have, you know, in discussing this resolution, Soldier Square comes up. Soldier Square is a disgrace to the veteran community because of what it is right now and what it was turned into as far back as 1937. It's never been resolved. City staff has done a great job trying to remediate at least restoration of a memorial, but we are never going to get rid of those parking spaces. I shouldn't say never. It's not going to happen while I'm on council. And we may not get rid of those dumpsters. And that leaves a space that is probably not going to be restored in a way that would revere veterans in our downtown district. And so, knowing that, it's okay, what can we do? So, you have that as a backdrop, at least when I'm looking at this. And then the second thing is, in my district, there's this Veterans Park that is—it's almost the same disgrace. You've got two parking stalls that are for handicapped and there's a porta potty and a playground. That's Veterans Park.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 1:08:10

So, these are two issues, and I think this is, I love having this conversation, because we haven't had it in a while. The last time we had this is when we were talking about holding restoration on the Spanish American War Memorial. Has it been, now, three or four years ago, that this council passed a pause on that because we've had an unresolved issue downtown? This doesn't—this may be a solution. This isn't speaking directly to that. And there is a possibility that, you know, maybe discussion gets to the point where some of these things can get moved into a new veteran designated park space.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 1:08:45

But it says two things. It says that we have two issues that we're trying to fix, and they are glaring. I mean, I go past Veterans Park and I just, I sometimes have to chuckle. Now, it should be noted that that park name came about when the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Bridge was restored. There is the dough boy. There's a cannon. I forget from what conflict specifically, and there are, there were, 40 Memorial maple trees all along that Boulevard. So, at one point in time, this community identified highway 47 when it was renamed Memorial Highway, as a place to do what we're trying to do, but it just never—that dream was never fulfilled. We got a

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long way to it, but that park space, unfortunately, as Jack tried to do 40 years ago, never saw the fulfillment of what it was intended to become.

Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 1:09:35

So, I'm loving this discussion. I hope lots of people watch the news and have a debate about and start talking about these two things that we need to figure out how to resolve, and this is maybe going to take care of one of those, and hopefully that conversation can taper into trying to figure out what to do with the other one. But I would like to see us maybe go back to staff and strip out some of this just to get to the point of the name, because I think that's where we're at. We need to fix the one problem by removing it from a park that doesn't function well, and put it in a park space that does. And that's really what this distills down to. And if we want to strip all the rest of the stuff out of this just to get to that first step of this bigger conversation, then I'm happy with that. And I, you know, I'd recommend a refer back, if we get there, at some point. We'll get there, but at this point, there's still people that want to talk, so let's keep talking.

Aldersperson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 1:09:45

Alder Croatt.

Aldersperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 1:10:18

Thank you, Chair. I agree with you, Alder Schultz. Great discussion. I'm glad we're having it. Very thankful for the service of our veterans, and it's clear that there's passion in this room. Hearing it from across the room. I'm hearing it up there. I'm hearing it out here. It—you know, we that sit in these chairs know that this is what we do. We ask questions; we try to get more information; and, you know, we want to understand the why and the how; and then we make informed decisions. The way the resolution was presented for me, had a lot of unknowns. I think we've clarified some of those tonight. You know, we've talked about the costs, we talked about the plan. Will there be a plan? I see this—you know, I see kind of two paths for this: change the name and figure some things out later, or figure some things out now and then change the name. Personally, I like the approach of, let's get a few things figured out, bring it back, change the name. I could 1,000% get behind this if we just have a few of those things documented. You know, I thought the cost was—coming into this meeting, I thought the cost was substantially higher. To Alder Wolff's point, I thought it included moving things, possibly even some restoration costs, but I thought the signage would be more than what was stated, but again, I could 1,000% get behind this if I just had more information. Thank you.

Aldersperson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 1:11:55

Alder van Zeeland.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:12:00

Actually, hadn't planned to speak, but I will. Again, I just want to remind everyone what this is, is a resolution to rename the park and that we—it—near the bottom when we talk about a plan to relocate select existing memorials will be developed. Staff cannot develop any kind of a plan without our direction.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:12:34

So, I mean, if we need to strip that portion out, I think that that would—I don't agree with it, if, but if it would allow us to move forward, starting with the name, and so that we can get this ball rolling and get our plans shored up, I would be willing to entertain that.

Aldersperson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 1:12:57

All right. Alder Fenton.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 1:13:01

Director One. I don't know where my microphone is. Thank you, Chair. Actually, after I first spoke, Director Gazza refreshed my memory, and I am really—I'm not worried now about the moving of the monuments, because we do have—we keep voting for a budget that's got funding. So, I would be ready to move forward with this. To be honest, I've been convinced, because I think that the in the therefore be it resolved, the only one that requires immediate action is the first one, and the rest of it involves planning. And it's clearly—when I first got on council was when we were first addressing Soldier Square, and it just burns me up every time I walk through there. And I'm not a veteran, but, you know, I have respect and honor and love for people who are, and I don't even go that way when I'm cutting over from Council chambers to go to the Y because it just bugs me too much to walk through there. And I know Alder Schultz, you know, one of the first things we tried to work on was something for Soldier Square, and maybe by taking this first step and taking it quickly, we can show our veterans in our community that in at least one respect, we value their service over parking.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 1:14:41

I do have one cons—I'm not so worried but, but I do—somewhere way down the line, and it keeps getting pushed down the line, we're going to take a chunk of that park for fire station four. I don't think it will interfere with anything that we've got planned. I don't think that the plan, and Director Gazza can help me out on this, but, you know, I do know that it's in the long-term CIP that fire station four would relocate into land that's currently occupied by Memorial Park. But I think that's something that just, you know, has to stay in our planning for what we do with things where that would be. So, I I—you know, I think if this gets approved—recommended for approval by this body and comes to us before Council next week, I can support this the way it is.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 1:15:39

I do have some concern—I know Alder van Zeeland had really good logic for the possessive singular veteran. I personally like the plural, and the piece that she read was really moving, but there was a lot of "he's" in there and—or it was a he. And we have a lot of women veterans now, and I think that maybe making that plural makes it—recognizes that fact rather than being the one. But—so anyway, thank you, Director Gazza, you've convinced me.

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 1:16:21

Alder Hartzheim.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 1:16:22

Could I ask him to speak to the plan for Fire Station—

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 1:16:24

Yes, you may

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 1:16:25

—four a little bit, and where that would be. And—

Attorney Christopher Behrens 1:16:29

We're getting a little bit off topic now when we're talking about relocating fire stations.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 1:16:34

Okay.

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 1:16:35

Yeah, I—to Attorney Behren's point, I think it's kind of been made apparent how we've kind of been roaming around the renaming of the park and the relocation of monuments, and we kind of keep stepping further and further away about from the renaming of the park.

Attorney Christopher Behrens 1:16:50

As long as I've got the mic and we're an hour and 15 minutes into it, I'll remind you that you've got a motion and second for approval on the table.

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 1:16:58

That's correct. And Alder Hartzheim.

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 1:17:02

Thank you, Chair. I like Alder Fenton, have come to feel more comfortable with this as the discussion has moved along. I still agree with Alder Croatt in that I think a few more details wouldn't hurt my feelings any, and to Alder Fenton's last point, I would truly urge this committee to change the singular possessive veteran's, to remove the possessive. The story is wonderful that Alder van Zeeland relayed. People who drive past something will say "Appleton can't spell or don't—doesn't know proper grammar," and they won't know the story that has been provided to us by Alder Van Zeeland. Thank you.

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 1:17:50

I agree with you, Alder Hartzheim. The story if you could tell everybody in Appleton and everybody that drives by the story, it would make sense, but only people who are here tonight will hear that story. Alder Smith.

Alderson Martyn Smith (District 4) 1:18:03

I'd like to make a motion to change the name to Veterans with without the apostrophe, Veterans Memorial park in the wording of the resolution.

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 1:18:13

Second. And Alder Van Zeeland speaking on the amendment.

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:18:20

Thank you. I'm open to changes, but I would like to hear from the veteran community about this, and obviously we can't have that in this public meeting, but I would say that I would I would hope that we would wait on this type of an amendment until possibly at Council so that we can get feedback from the veteran community. This shouldn't be a decision that we make on our own. So, I would hope that we would not move forward with the amendment, but I would be open to an amendment should the veteran community be open to that.

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 1:19:10

Right we have an amendment and a second, anyone else wish to have discussion on the amendment?

Alderson Martyn Smith (District 4) 1:19:16

I mean, I'd just like say, I think we should, as a council, move forward with the wording that we like best. You can do an internet search and see that it's done both ways, if—it can always be changed back if we find out between now and next council meeting that the apostrophe s is preferred, but I think we should just vote with our sense of what is most proper.

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 1:19:37

Alder Dougherty.

Alderson Denis Dougherty (District 15) 1:19:38

Thank you, Chair. I would just add in there as someone who spent 40 years in journalism, clearly the apostrophe should not be there. I mean, it's just going to look bad. And anyone who knows the plural possessive and singular possessive and all that kind of stuff is going to notice that. It just would look really bad. I think clearly we should be grammatically correct on this, and that's without question without the apostrophe. And I also did want to say that I appreciate everybody's passion on this. My father was an Appleton native who died as a result of injury suffered being the front row in Korea. So, this obviously means a lot to me, as well as it does to everyone else, and I certainly appreciate the veterans sharing their stories. But, yeah, I was copy editor for much of my career back when newspapers actually had those. That's a long time ago, and I would be very embarrassed if my friends were to see that an obvious mistake like that. So, I think we should definitely go ahead and lose the apostrophe.

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 1:20:34

Alder van Zeeland.

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:20:37

I'm open to moving forward this way, if we can move forward, and if, upon speaking with the veteran community prior to council, there is a—they have a difference of opinion, I'd be happy to bring that at that time.

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 1:20:55

Seeing no more discussion, I'll move forward to voting on the amendment to remove the apostrophe from the Veterans Memorial Park proposed name. All those in favor say, aye. Aye. All those opposed? Abstaining? This passes five to zero.

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 1:21:09

We're back to the original discussion on the renaming of the park, and we're getting close to an hour and a half. So just remind everybody, we go to a break at two hours if the council teams it. So, let's try to make our—oh, I apologize, but let's try to keep our comments a little bit more concise, because we are getting a little circular in our conversations. Alder Schultz.

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 1:21:30

I would like to propose an amendment to strike line three, which speaks to the relocation of existing memorials.

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 1:21:39

Is there a second? Seeing none, we'll continue discussion on the original resolution. Alder Schultz, did you have something else?

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 1:21:51

Well, if that would have been second, I would say that, you know, there's been this discussion in this meeting about this sort of vague group of memorials that will get relocated to this base, and to my knowledge, I think there are two that could fit into that category. One is the Gettysburg Address, which is on the slope of Pierce Park which was originally placed there by the Daughters of the American Revolution. The second one is the Spanish American War Memorial, as I stated earlier, also in Pierce Park, virtually unidentifiable at this point, but the city has already purchased replacement cannon for that memorial and also purchased the replacement Remember the USS Main plaque for the restoration of that memorial. And this body voted to hold on that, as I

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stated earlier. So, I get that—I get the sense that which everyone feels like there's a bunch of memorials to move by this because this clause is included. "A plan on to relocate select existing memorials" seems like there's a lot to look at. Like we can move a bunch. To my knowledge, there's two, and one of them is kind of locked in until this body takes up another resolution to unlock that one and move this to this space. So, part of me was like, it just feels like a—now I'm speaking to something that isn't on the docket, but I don't, probably not going to vote in favor of it now, because I don't think—I think that adds a little muddiness to the clarity of this resolution, which, again, as we stated many times, is just renaming the park and moving forward with naming.

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 1:23:19

Alder van Zeeland.

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 1:23:21

Call the question.

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 1:23:23

Called a question. All those in favor? Aye. Fails three to two. Anything else to add Alder Van Zeeland? Alder Smith.

Alderson Martyn Smith (District 4) 1:23:35

I'd like to make a motion to send this back to staff to get a broad sense of the general sense of the cost, not to have a complete inch by inch plan, but just have a map, or you can see where, apparently, two monuments. Or is there more that are en—envisioned, like where those would where those would go. It would give me a chance to walk, or, you know, to think about this more as well. So, I'd like to refer this back to staff for some of those basic estimates.

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 1:24:06

Attorney Behrens, is that allowed, while we have an open motion to approve?

Attorney Christopher Behrens 1:24:13

Typically, a referral like that would supersede. I'd suggest the committee just act on and move on.

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 1:24:20

Okay. Is there a second?

Alderson Alex Schultz (District 9) 1:24:22

Second.

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 1:24:24

All right. All right. Discussion on sending back to committee. All right, we'll move on to voting. All those in favor—I'm sorry. Discussion on sending back to staff. All those in favor on sending back to staff say aye. All those opposed? Nay. Fails three to two. Moving on with discussion, anyone else on the original on the amended name? Seeing none, we'll move on with voting. All those in favor of renaming the park? Aye.

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 1:25:06

All those opposed?

Aldersons Smith and Schultz 1:25:07

Nay.

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 1:25:08
Passes three to two.