

ND FISHER HOUSE COMMITTEE

Minutes

July 7, 2020
11:00am Webex

Call to order: Lonnie Wangen

Roll call conducted

- Lonnie Wangen Present
- Dr. Weintraub Present
- Dale Dekrey Present
- Paul Dosch Present
- Austen Schauer Absent
- Jim Haukedahl Called in

Approved minutes from June 18, 2020 meeting

Presentation (Power Point): Commissioner Wangen

- Items from last meeting
 - Commissioner Wangen Measured land south of VA parking lot was presented showing how over 1.25 acres of land would be available for fisher house and ample parking if the VA park could be acquired.
 - Additional Stake holders-none to add at this time.
- Information from visits with Brian Gawne of the Fisher House Foundation and Jennifer Koget-Fisher House contact at VACO was discussed.
- Fisher House Application discussed
 - Applications to be open in September of 2020.
 - Can and should start on the application now.
 - Jennifer Koget with the Federal VA -Fisher House happy to assist in the application process and answer questions.
 - "Land acquisition required" can be stated on the application
- Land acquisition process was discussed
 - VAHCS-Fargo can request funds for land acquisition and site prep for Fisher House from the VACO—VA Land Brokers only persons who can acquire land for VA

Discussion:

- Barriers to Fisher House in Fargo-reviewed
 - Application and land acquisition have been resolved
- The way forward discussion and Plan of action
 - Stakeholders needed on committee-Paul Dosch discussed interest of an attorney who is well versed in land acquisition and interested in the committee. Also interested in the fund raising portion. Will consider for committee once fund raising portion is allowed (after fisher house approval).
 - Next steps discussed
 - Commissioner Jim Haukedahl and Austin Schauer will reach out to Fargo mayor and Parks director for informal meeting.
 - Dale Dekrey and Dr. Weintraub will discuss all aspects of application process and take next steps.

Next meeting to be August to discuss results of the meetings and application status

Adjourned

Members: ND Department of Veterans Affairs-Lonnie Wangen, Fargo VAHCS-Dr. Breton Weintraub & Dale Dekrey, ND Legislation-Austin Schauer, Veteran-Paul Dosch, Veterans Organizations-Jim Haukedahl



*"A man who is good enough to shed his blood for his country
is good enough to be given a fair deal later."™*

ND FISHER HOUSE COMMITTEE

Lonnie L. Wangen
Commissioner-NDDVA

7/7/2020

1

1



Last Meeting-June 18, 2020

**Meeting held 6/18/2020. See minutes. Voted
on top locations to explore**

1. South of VA campus to include VA park and VA Parking lot.
2. Oxbow Park
3. Off-site on Fargo City land?
4. Elephant park-SW corner?

7/7/2020

2

2



Last Meeting-June 18, 2020

To do before next meeting:

- Measure Land for 1.25 acres. Commissioner Wangen
- Members consider if more stakeholders need to be on committee.
- Reach out to City of Fargo and Parks Dept.

7/7/2020

3

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Last Meeting-June 18, 2020

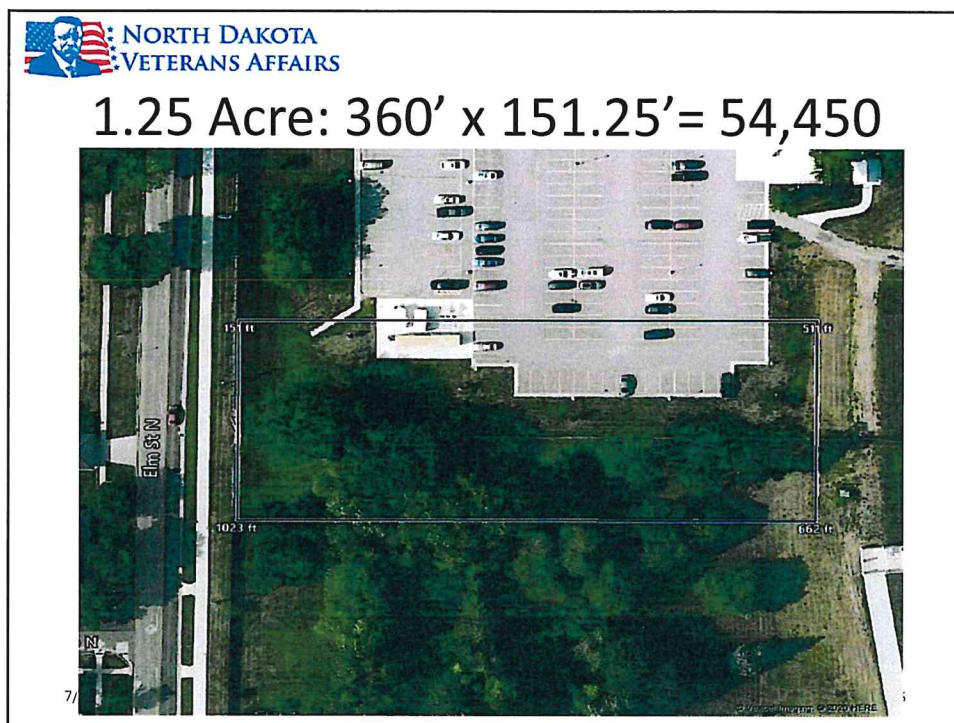
Next meeting

- Updates since last meeting
- Discuss need for more members on committee
- Best option for location
- Determine entities to reach out to for support
- Develop/start action plan

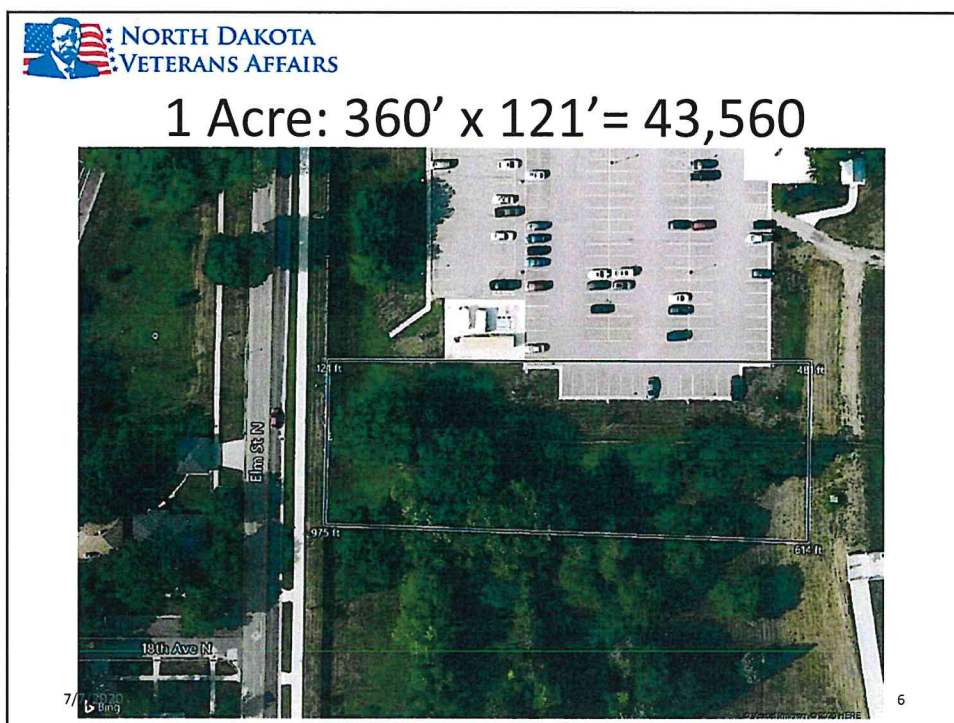
7/7/2020

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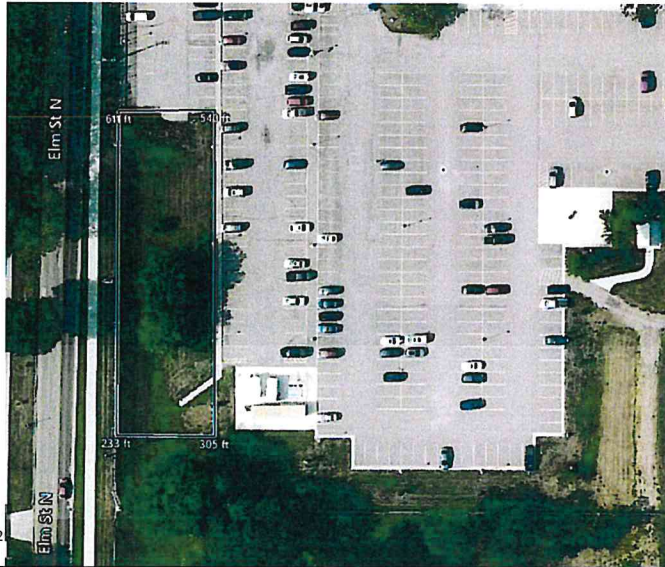
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16,614 sq' (.25 Acre=10,890 sq feet)



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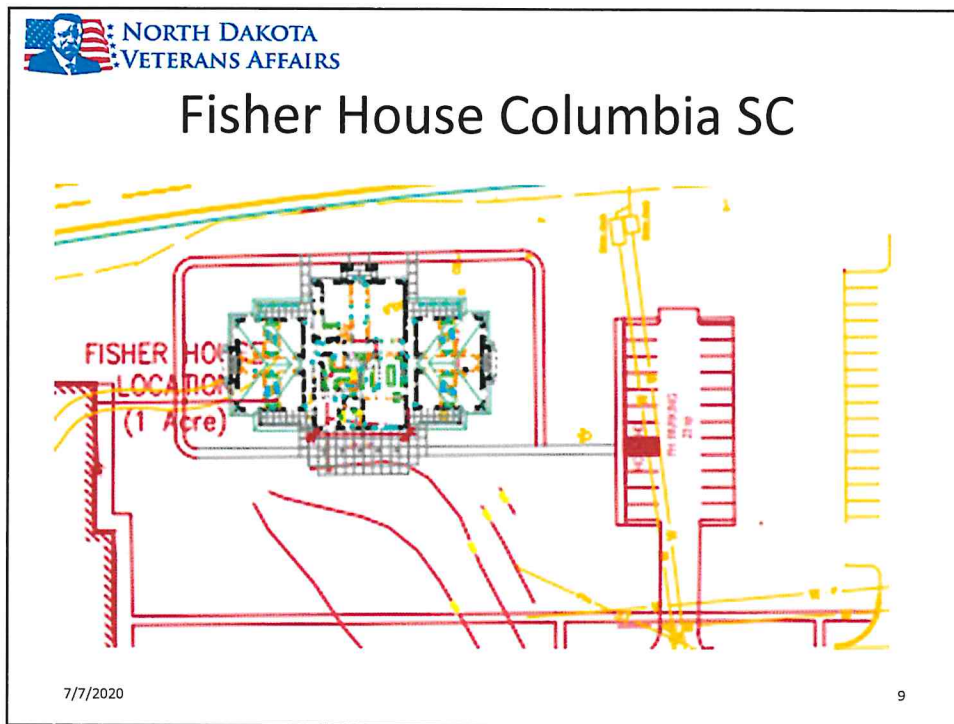


56,000 Sq' (1.25 Acre=54,450 sq feet)



8

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9

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Fisher House Foundation & VA

- Brian Gawne-Fisher House Foundation
 - 888-294-8560
 - 240-599-2462 (direct line)
 - 703-585-6619 (Cell)
 - bgawne@fisherhouse.org
- Jennifer Koget-VA Fisher House & Family Prgm
 - 724-996-2717
 - Jennifer.Koget@va.gov

7/7/2020

10

10



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Fisher House Application 2020

- Open in September 2020
- **Can** submit application with notation of “land acquisition required”
- VAHCS-Fargo **Can** request to VACO for funding of land acquisition and site prep costs

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11

11



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Fisher House Application 2020

- Fargo VAHCS must be the driving force behind Fisher House
- ND Fisher House Committee can assist in some areas at this point
- After approval and fund raising for house begins-Committee is driving force

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12

12



Fisher House Application 2020

- **Land Acquisition**
- Must be on Fisher House list!
- Once on list VAHCS-Fargo request funding
 - “Skip Process”
 - Land acquisition and site prep
 - Parking lot also.

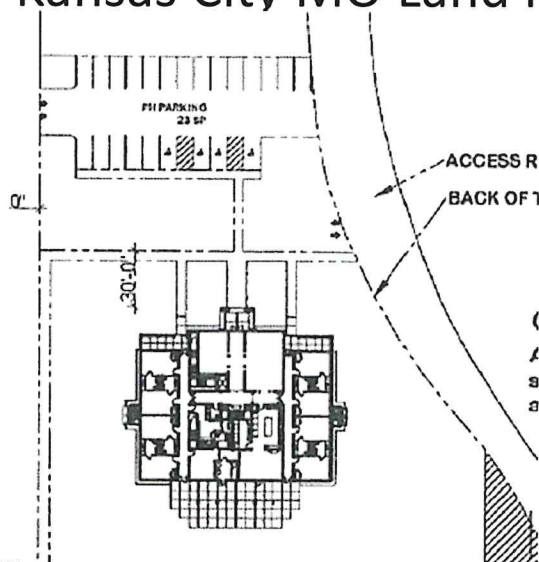
7/7/2020

13

13



Kansas City MO Land From City



7/7/2020

14

14



Fisher House Application 2020

- **Land Acquisition**
- Only a few VA employees who can acquire land for VA (Brokers)
- National Federal Properties-Land Acquisitions
- Many Studies to be done.
- Committee can have “informal” meetings with land owners about interests (Fargo city/parks)
- 12-24 months to acquire land from city

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15

15



Fisher House Application 2020

- **Land Acquisition**
- List a few alternate land options
- A few steps we can do now to ID possible barriers to use of land
 - VA facility ID any buried utilities etc. in area of land
 - Restrictions on use of land

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16

16



Barriers to Fisher House

- **Two biggest barriers:**
 - Application-2 years out-Update-opens 2020
 - Land
 - Must be Federal VA Land-Update: Can add note to application-need to acquisition land
 - 1.25 Acres – Update- Can be flexible.
 - VA cannot fund raise for land or Fisher House- Update: VA HCS can request funding from VA for land acquisition and site prep.

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17

17



The Way Forward

- Land
 - Visit with Fargo Parks/City of Fargo-
 - Committee members-Non-VA
 - Informal-cannot speak on behalf of VA
 - Donate or sell Park back to VA?
- Application
 - From Fargo VA HCS.
 - Contact Jennifer for assistance-Fargo VA HCS

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18

18



Discussion

7/7/2020

19

19

Thank you for your Service



Feel free to contact me with any questions!

Lonnie Wangen
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lwangen@nd.gov

7/7/2020

20

20