

## ND FISHER HOUSE COMMITTEE

# Minutes

September 2, 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 Present

Approved minutes from July 7, 2020 meeting

Commissioner Wangen and Austen Schauer reported on informal visit with Fargo Mayor Dr. Tim Mahony and Fargo Parks board member Dave Leker.

- Mayor supports the Fisher House project
- Fargo Parks director is supportive. Will seek a “letter of interest” from the park board.

Dr. Weintraub reported on the Fisher House applications status. Just received announcement that the application window is open. It is a relatively small application of about 2 pages. Understands that about 20 applications received so far in DC. DC will approve or disapprove application then they go to the Fisher House Foundation. Letters of support are required to accompany the application submission. Dr. Weintraub was looking for some help contacting a few dignitaries

- Governors Office- Austen Schauer will reach out and provide Dr. Weintraub with contact.
- Congressional members-Austin Schauer will get contacts to Dr. Weintraub
- Fargo and local Mayor-Lonnie will reach out
- Veteran Service Organizations-Lonnie will reach out.
- County Veteran Service Officers Associations-Lonnie Will reach out.

### Discussion:

Austen Schauer

- Spoke about the Park Districts interest.
- Reiterated it will be important to reach out to the 4 houses next to the park for support.
- Will be important to encourage use of local contractors-which will help with fund raising also.
- Spoke about visit with Brad Dahl and some possible big donors for when the time comes.

Dale Dekrey mentioned that they found a possible issue with the land south of the VA. There is a major gas line in that area. May have to adjust where the house would go and move around parking lot or landscaped area to accommodate. Will reach out to NSP for more information.

Lonnie discussed the Fisher House Booklet he is sending to everyone. Some stakeholders the booklet states that should be on the board/committee:

- Business leaders from major companies in the area
- Local banker
- Lawyer
- CPA

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

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- Veterans Service Organization members (A. Legion, Amvets, DAV, VFW, VVA)
- Chamber of Commerce Representative
- Public Relations Firm-representative
- Information Technology Tech (Website development, online donations, and digital media)
- VA Voluntary Service Officer or the VA Director (in advisory position only)
- A few generous, well-connected wealthy people.

Lonnie asked that members send their contacts as possible committee/board members to fill these positions. Send by email to Lonnie.

### Next steps

- Letters of support
- Additional member/board member names to Lonnie. Can discuss and vote on these at next meeting
- Submit application and wait.

Next meeting to be in October

\*\*Meeting experienced many technical issues and ended abruptly when Webex shut down.