CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

Attachment 1

MEETING DATE: April 5, 2004 ITEM NUMBER:

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF SUPPORT FOR PROPOSED VETERANS' MEMORIAL

DATE: MARCH 1, 2004

FROM: CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE/ADMINISTRATION

PRESENTATION BY: ANN C. SHULTZ, LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS MANAGER

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: ANN C. SHULTZ, (714) 754-5667

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council decides whether they wish to support the Veterans' Memorial proposed by Bud Hohl and if so, specify what type and level of support.

BACKGROUND:

Bud Hohl, President of the Costa Mesa Chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, has requested that the City of Costa Mesa lend support to a proposed Veterans' Memorial to be constructed at Harbor Lawn Memorial Cemetery in Costa Mesa. The estimated cost for construction of the memorial is $131,392.00.

ANALYSIS:

For some time, Mr. Hohl has been working on a concept for a memorial to recognize veterans of World Wars I and II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the wars in Iraq who are buried at Harbor Lawn Memorial Cemetery. Mr. Hohl's brother, himself a veteran, had drawn up initial designs for the monument (see Attachment 1). However, subsequent to this, Mr. Hohl found and purchased a bronze caste eagle that he now wishes to be the focal point of the monument (see Attachment 2). The eagle is six feet tall, six feet wide and four feet in depth. Given this, the originally designed pediment would not be large enough to hold and anchor the eagle. The proposed design has changed accordingly. It is now envisioned that the eagle will stand on a cement or concrete pad and be framed by a six-sided wall. One of each of five panels will be dedicated to a branch of the service, with the center panel containing information on the monument itself (date of dedication, n ames of those involved in its construction, etc.).

Rose Hills, the company that owns and operates the cemetery, has agreed to the placement of the memorial on the cemetery grounds (see Attachment 3). The monument will be constructed where a small memorial, consisting of a World War II artillery gun on a concrete pad and a surrounding walkway, now stands. The memorial eagle, purchased by Mr. Hohl, is currently being stored on the cemetery grounds.

A small committee comprised of Fire Chief Jim Ellis, Legislative and Public Affairs Manager Ann Shultz and Fire Fighter/Paramedic Henry Santo have met with Mr. Hohl to discuss his concept. In addition, Fire Fighter Santo has obtained quotes on different

elements of the project from local general contractors. The figure of $131,392.00 is based on very rough estimates from these contractors and includes the pad, walkway, Stand and memorial wall. The attached chart (see Attachment 4) shows a breakdown of the estimates.

The obvious impediment to the construction of the memorial is funding. Mr. Hohl has no financing for the project. He has met with the Board of the Costa Mesa Community Foundation. Although they support the concept. They do not currently have any funding available to contribute to the project. Staff has also checked on possible state and federal funds and grants and found that there are currently no funds available through these sources.

If the Council approves the memorial concept, funding would have to be solicited from such possible donors as veterans' groups, Costa Mesa based businesses and service organizations and individuals. The money could be received and collected through the Costa Mesa Community Foundation.

CONCLUSION:

The City Council must decide whether they wish to support Mr. Hohl ini this effort and if so, specify what the level of support and involvement is to be.

ANN C. SHULTZ
LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS MANAGER

ALLAN L. ROEDER
CITY MANAGER

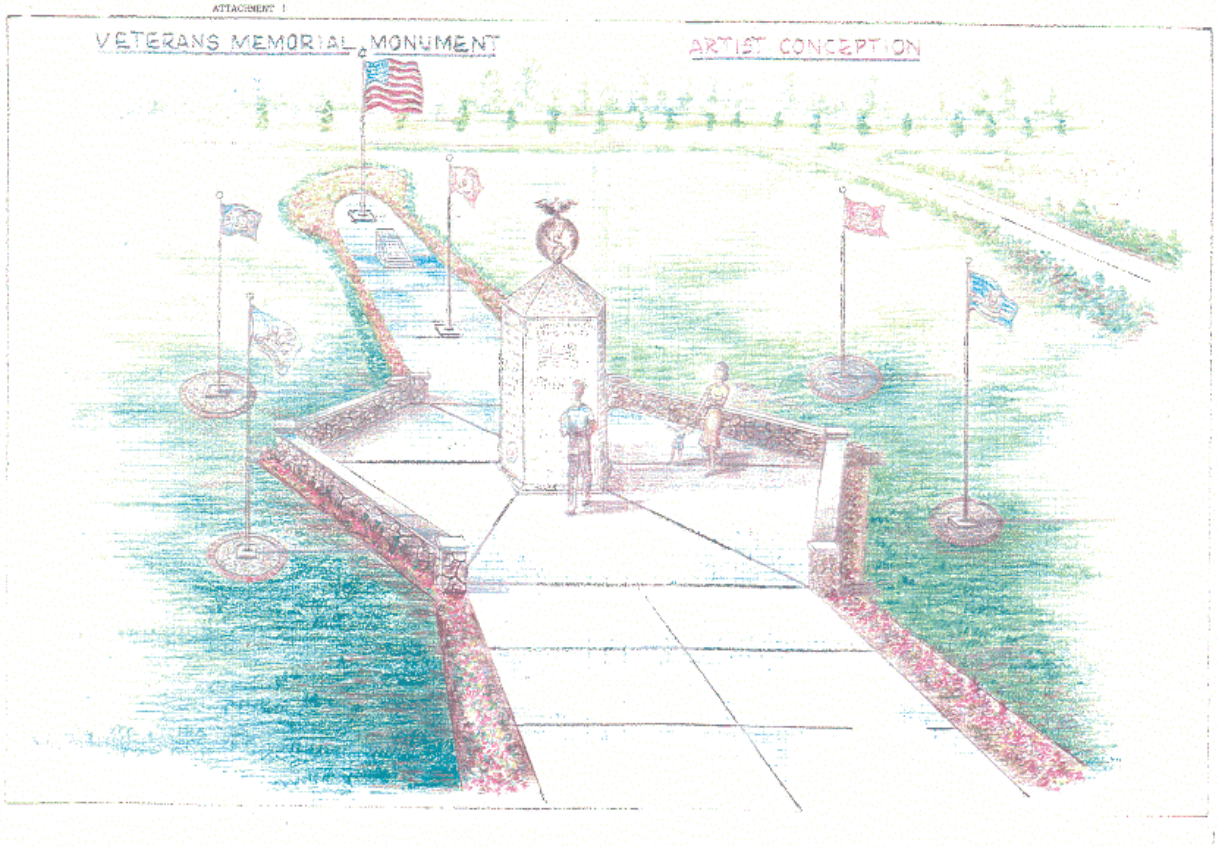
DISTRIBUTION:
Bud Hohl
Fire Chief Jim Ellis
Fire Fighter Henry Santo
Rose Hills

ATTACHMENTS:
1 Initial Design
2 Photo of Eagle
3 Letter from Rose Hills
4 Chart of Estimated Costs

ATTACHMENT 1

VETERANS MEMORIAL MONUMENT

ARTIST CONCEPTION



ATTACHMENT 2

ROSE HILLS
Mortuary
Harbor Lawn • Mt. Olive Memorial Park

August 20, 2003

To: The Honorable Gary Monahan
Costa Mesa City Council
City Manager, Allen Roerder

Re: Veterans Memorial

It is the intent of Harbor Lawn Memorial Park to donate a 22'x 22' piece of land in our Veterans Section for the placement of a Veterans Memorial.

We feel that a memorial of this nature will not only enhance our Veterans Section but will enhance our entire cemetery. We understand there will be several concepts to observe so that all who are involved will agree on the final presentation of our memorial. At the present time the only architectural element is a 6'x 6'x 4' cast iron American Eagle.

Our concerns will be that the memorial fits into the scheme of our Memorial Park, the conceptual aspects of the memorial and that it does not endanger the safety of those visiting the park or our employees.

This will represent an agreement in concept and once plans have been finalized, a more definitive contractual obligation will be entered into.

We look forward to working with Bud Hohl, the City of Costa Mesa, the citizens of Costa Mesa and all others involved to make this vision a reality.

Sincerely,

Lynn Stucker
Vice Pres. / Gen. Mgr.

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