

# City of Marco Island Florida

*51 Bald Eagle Drive  
Marco Island, Florida  
cityofmarcoisland.com*



## Meeting Minutes - Final

**Monday, March 4, 2024**

**4:00 PM**

**WORKSHOP**

**Community Meeting Room**

### **City Council**

*Chair: Jared Grifoni*

*Vice-Chair: Erik Brechnitz*

*City Council: Rich Blonna,  
Greg Folley, Becky Irwin,  
Darrin Palumbo, Joe Rola*

*City Manager: Mike McNees*

*Assistant City Manager: Casey Lucius*

*City Attorney: Alan L. Gabriel*

*City Clerk: Joan Taylor*

## 1. Call to Order

*Chair Grifoni called the Workshop to order at 4:00 P.M.*

## 2. Roll Call

**Present:** 3 - Vice-Chair Brechnitz, Councilor Folley and Chair Grifoni

**Not Present:** 4 - Councilor Blonna, Councilor Irwin, Councilor Palumbo and Councilor Rola

(Note: Councilor Palumbo arrived at 4:02 P.M., Councilors Irwin and Rola arrived at 4:03 P.M., and Councilor Blonna arrived at 4:37 P.M.)

## Also Present

*Michael McNees, City Manager  
Casey Lucius, Assistant City Manager  
Joan Taylor, City Clerk  
Alan L. Gabriel, City Attorney  
Tracy Frazzano, Police Chief (arrived at 4:16 P.M.)  
Chris Byrne, Fire Chief  
Daniel J. Smith, Community Affairs Director  
Samantha Malloy, Parks, Culture & Recreation Manager  
Martin Luna, Video/Broadcast Technician  
Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist  
Citizens and Visitors*

## 3. Business

[ID 24-3475](#) City Council Discussion and Direction Regarding a Vietnam-Era Memorial for Veterans Community Park

*At Chair Grifoni's request, City Manager Mike McNees briefly summarized the City's initial direction and subsequent engagement with representatives of American Legion Post 404 in creating a Vietnam-Era Memorial for Veterans Community Park, and he requested Council direction on the Post's proposed concept and path forward.*

*A scale model representation of the most recent American Legion Post 404's proposal was on display for Council consideration, and all members of the Council participated in a discussion of the proposed concept.*

## 4. Public Comment

*Mr. Lee Rubenstein, Commander of American Legion Post 404, commented on the Council and City Manager McNees' discussion comments, and he introduced, in turn, the following American Legion members who offered personal perspective and support for the Post's proposed Memorial:*

- 1) Mr. Joe Batte (Marquesas Ct.)*
- 2) Mr. John Apolzan (Seaview Ct.)*
- 3) Mr. Terry Kehoe (Jungle Plum Dr., Naples)*
- 4) Mr. William Duncan (Greeview St.)*
- 5) Mr. Joe Varano (S. Heathwood Dr.)*

*Mr. Joe Batte, Vice-Commander for Government Affairs, briefly summed-up the Post's desires, and he conveyed the Post's commitment to working with the City to implement the proposed concept.*

*The following citizens came forward in support of the American Legion's initiative:*

- 1) Ms. Rhonda Gloodt (Vernon Place)*
- 2) Mr. Steve Slaggie (Tigertail Ct.)*

### **Council Direction**

*With the full backing of the Council, Chair Grifoni requested: 1) that American Legion Post 404 confirm the version of its proposed Memorial design, and convey the dimensional specifications of its proposal to the City; 2) that City Staff identify locations at Veterans Community Park that can accommodate the scale of the proposed Memorial, and; 3) that City Staff schedule this item and proposed plan for review at an upcoming meeting of the Council.*

### **5. Adjournment**

*There being no further business before the Council, Chair Grifoni adjourned the Workshop at 5:06 P.M.*

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*Jared Grifoni, Council Chair*

*ATTEST:*

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*Joan Taylor, City Clerk*

*PREPARED BY:*

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*Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist*