

3PP (VETS 9) SNEEL 2/10

MEETING OF STATE COMMITTEE FOR LIVING WAR MEMORIALS

A meeting of the State Committee for Living War Memorials was held in the Tyrolean Room, Benson Hotel, Portland, Oregon, Wednesday, September 19, 1945 at 12:30 o'clock, James J. Richardson, chairman, presiding.

The following members of the Committee were present: - Lynn S. McCreedy, Eugene; Donald Sterling, Portland; Thos. A. Sweeney, Portland; Francis B. Jacobberger, Portland; Jess Savage, Albany; Leo Adler, Baker; Chas. H. Reynolds, LaGrande; M.E. Woodcock, Corvallis, and Paul Wallace, Salem.

Guests present, interested in War Memorial projects were Thos. Purcell, president, Oregon Newspaper Publishers Ass'n; Hal Byers, Radio Station KWIL, Albany; Vance A. McNish, Exchange Club; Thos. Swafford, Radio Station KGW; Leith Abbott, Radio Station KALE, who also represented Glenn McCormick, president, Oregon Broadcasters Ass'n, and Fred Taylor, The Oregonian.

Chairman Richardson welcomed members of the Committee and thanked them for being in attendance. He stated that he did not feel privileged to ask the out-state members of the Committee to come to Portland more often than was absolutely necessary to discuss matters in connection with the Committee's problems, mainly, because they did so at their own expense.

The chairman stated that practically every section of the State was considering a Living War Memorial project and that many communities had already appointed committees to discuss ways and means of financing their projects. He remarked that the entire nation, now that hostilities had ceased, were desirous of paying tribute to the fighting men and women who were returning home and also to those who would never return, by erecting a Living Memorial as a tribute to their achievements and memory.

A letter was read from Catholic Central High School, Portland, asking the Committee to endorse their Memorial which is to be an addition to their gymnasium and which was estimated to cost about \$75,000.00.

A motion was made and seconded that the Committee approve the plans for a Living War Memorial as submitted by Central Catholic High School. MOTION CARRIED.

A request from the Oregon Museum Foundation, Inc., that the Committee endorse their plans was NOT APPROVED for the reason that the Committee felt that a museum was not in keeping with the physical fitness program of the nation which was the principal thought behind the appointment of the Committee and which occasioned the birth of the National Commission for Living War Memorials.

Thos. A. Sweeney suggested that the chairman write to each community in the State, whether incorporated or not, to interest them in the appointment of a committee to sponsor a Living War Memorial for their community. Motion made and seconded that the chairman contact the Mayor, County Judge, or any other official of each community in the State as suggested by Mr. Sweeney. MOTION CARRIED.

Jess Savage, Albany, advised that Albany's plans for a Memorial Stadium were well under way and that the project would cost approximately \$85,000.00 The cost of which is to be raised by private funds. Upon completion the stadium will be dedicated in honor of Tommy Swanson, athlete, who gave his life in World War II. Mr. Savage stated that the operation and maintenance of the project would be the responsibility of the City of Albany.

Colonel J. J. Crossley, representing the Auxilliary of Batteries "A" and "B", 147th Field Artillery, appeared before the Committee, and offered on behalf of the above mentioned organizations, the sum of \$747.00 plus interest, as a memorial to the soldiers of Oregon. The Committee accepted Mr. Crossley's fine gesture and will discuss the matter further at its next meeting.

Paul Wallace, Salem, pointed out that a stadium would be erected on a site comprising 100 acres in Salem known as Bush's pasture. It is proposed to spend approximately \$150,000.00 on this project. In addition, West Salem is considering a waterfront park, about a mile long on the Willamette river, 18 acres of which have already been donated, as the first step toward a river front park for the Capitol City.

Thos. Purcell, Gresham, president of the Oregon Newspaper Publisher's Association, stated that his organization would cooperate to the fullest extent with any plans the Committee might present for publicizing Living War Memorials. He requested that the chairman furnish their state office at Eugene with any data and they would forward it to the members of their association for publication.

Mr. Purcell also stated that Gresham is planning a Living War Memorial and that the people of Eastern Multnomah county had already raised \$30,000.00 toward a \$100,000 project.

Leith Abbott, Radio Station KALE, Portland, representing Glenn McCormick, president of the Oregon Broadcasters Association, stated that Mr. McCormick had authorized him to state that the radio stations of Oregon were 100 per cent behind the movement for Living War Memorials.

Leo Adler, Baker, advised that Baker contemplates erecting a stadium costing about \$75,000.00. He stated that Baker county had lost 3 per cent of the 3000 men who joined the armed forces from that county.

Mr. Adler suggested that the Committee request Governor Snell to designate December as Living War Memorial month because the people should have a good idea of how much they could contribute toward a War Memorial and deduct same from their income tax. Motion was made and seconded that Mr. Adler's suggestion be the sense of the Committee and the MOTION WAS CARRIED.

NOTE: Governor Snell has agreed to designate December as Living War Memorial month.

Chas. Reynolds, LaGrande, stated that his city had already raised \$27,000.00 toward constructing a swimming pool as a Living War Memorial. He mentioned that an additional sum would be subscribed through a campaign and that it is planned to have the city, or county, take over the maintenance of the pool. He stated also that a boat landing may be included as War Memorial, and that an additional golf course was contemplated as one of the committee's projects.

M. E. Woodcock, Corvallis, has plans for a river front project. The college city is now considering plans also for a ball park, boat landing, and eventually a stadium and auditorium. The American Legion Post of Corvallis has already appropriated \$10,000.00 towards a veterans building.

Thos. A. Sweeney, vice chairman of the State Committee, stated that Portland had not yet made definite plans for a War Memorial, but that several veteran organizations were discussing certain projects, that there is talk of a coliseum to hold major indoor events such as large conventions, fights, wrestling, ice hockey, automobile shows, banquets for 5000 persons, and with a seating capacity for at least 15,000 people.

Chairman Richardson stated in support of Mr. Sweeney's remarks that Mayor R. Earl Riley had informed him that he would appoint a committee to study and recommend a Living War Memorial as soon as Mr. Richardson wanted it.

NOTE: The nucleus of this committee is now in the hands of Mayor R. Earl Riley.

Francis B. Jacobberger, Portland, American Architects Ass'n, President, Oregon Chapter, and also a member of the National Advisory Committee of Architects, enlightened the Committee on many phases of the movement to erect Living War Memorials. He suggested that the Committee foster only those projects which relate to physical fitness, that they should be permanent, beautiful, and should be so financed that their maintenance would always be assured.

The meeting was very enthusiastic and it was regretted that other out-state members as well as those living in Portland could not have attended the meeting.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned until the call of the chairman.