

★ Roll Call Number

Agenda Item Number

56

Date .....September 10, 2007

Communication from Gerald LaBlanc and Betty Bellizzi, to speak regarding accessibility of the Gold Star Monument west of Iowa Lutheran Hospital.

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ to receive and file comments.

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE				
COLEMAN				
HENSLEY				
KIERNAN				
MAHAFFEY				
MEYER				
VLASSIS				
TOTAL				

**CERTIFICATE**

I, DIANE RAUH, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

REGISTRATION FORM TO SPEAK AT CITY COUNCIL MEETING

To: The Honorable Mayor  
and  
Members of the City Council  
City of Des Moines, Iowa  
c/o City Clerk

I (We) GERALD LABLANC, BETTY BELLIZI WORLD WAR II NURSE  
(Please Print)

hereby request permission to speak at the Des Moines City Council  
meeting of SEPTEMBER 10, regarding  
THE INACCESSIBILITY OF THE GOLD STAR MONUMENT LOCATED  
WEST OF IOWA LUTHERN HOSPITAL

1007 AUG - 1 AM 10:24  
CITY CLERK  
DES MOINES, IOWA  
FILED

Name: Gerald LaBlanc  
(Signature)

Address: 8912 N.E. 46 AVE. ALTOONA

Daytime Phone: 967-7708

BETTY BELLIZI LIVES AT 1331 PLEASANTVIEW DRIVES  
DES MOINES

PROCEDURAL RULES OF DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL:

Part III. Agenda

Rule 16. Citizen Agenda Requests. Any citizen may request the right to have an item placed on the Agenda (including a request to speak) by filing such request in writing with the City Clerk prior to noon on the Wednesday preceding the Council meeting.

Part V. Citizen Participation

Rule 27. Citizen's Right to Address Council. Persons other than Council Members shall be permitted to address the Council only upon specific Agenda Items.

SEPTEMBER 1, 2007

MAYOR FRANK COWNIE AND COUNCIL MEMBERS  
DES MOINES CITY HALL  
400 BOB RAY PARKWAY  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50309

In 2001 I contacted Jack Bishop, Chairperson, for the county to restore their Polk County War Memorial. Instead he threw me a curve saying half of the responsibility lies with the City since it is on City ground. In April of 2007 I contacted Tom Hockensmith, Chairperson and his thinking was and is that it is, indeed, a Polk County monument. Both Christine Hensley, Councilperson and Tom Vlassis, Councilperson, will recall my coming before the Council requesting funds.

The Polk County Board of Supervisors have now gone the 2nd mile. But, there is still a major problem with the monument: excess to the monument by the public.

The two grand stairways lead to University Ave. where there are "no parking" signs located all alone the street on both sides. The next street over, a block away, is a private street for one purpose: for the employees of Iowa Lutheran to park, and it is filled 24-hours a day. Fifth Street is no more as taken over as a drive for the Wallace-Longfellow school. The next street over is 5 blocks away: Pennsylvania.

Many of the citizens are very old or handicaped. The parking in the hospital lot is not dependable and discouraging, and no place for a children's school bus.

You have 15 acres in the veterans John Buke Park. Every park in the City has some parking. I suggest that there be a 50'x50' parking lot located on the eastern edge of the park with a sign "30 minute parking for viewing of the monument strickly enflorced".

Once you provide parking for one space for a school bus, one space for the hanicaped and two places for other cars, I will contact the Dept. head of Social Studies at the Des Moines Public Schools and provide what the monument is all about to be given to Social Studies teachers. All field trips would go through the Dept. head so only one bus would be there at a time. It is important that the young children appreciate this hard won monument as they will inherit it.

You will need two car parking places for a 25' driveway. If Iowa Lutheran is uncooperative remind them a good number of years ago the City gave them 25' all along the east edge of the park to them. In exchange for the Iowa Lutheran has maintained the Park, grass cutting, clean-up, etc.

Mayor Cownie and Council members, I will be at your meeting on September 10. I would think such legislation should be a priority.

Sincerely, Gerald LaBlanc

