

Hmong memorial repaired just in time for Veterans Day

November 10, 2022



When Veterans Day parade goers arrive at the Point of Honor Friday at 11 a.m. to remember the veterans who served, they'll be greeted by a heartening surprise.

Crescent City Facilities Manager Jason Wylie painstakingly repaired the monument to Hmong soldiers who assisted the U.S. in Vietnam that was vandalized last month in time for the celebration.

"It's absolutely amazing, that's the kind of people we have on our team," said Crescent City Councilor Blake Inscore. He referenced the fact that he hoped the monument which was tipped over, cracked and chipped, would be patched in time for the veteran's celebration but didn't know if it was really possible. "The mayor looked at me when I said that and we both wondered how it could happen in time," Inscore said while praising the work as so good those who viewed it including Hmong elders in the community were speechless. "It was the kind of thing where no one spoke."

The annual Veteran's Day festivities in Crescent City begin at 10 at the corner of 9th and H Streets and ends at the Point of Honor. The recognition of veterans will take place from 11 to 11:15 a.m. The luncheon will take place at the VFW Memorial Hall, at 810 H Street from 11:30 to 2 p.m.

In addition, the Crescent City Council discussed updating the city's housing element which essentially looks at ways for the city to examine its housing capacity and progress.

Discussion turned to accessory dwelling units, ADU's, and ways to encourage home owners with property to consider building more of these units to provide tenant housing and fulfill the city's strategy of filling in the gaps in housing.

Councilor Inscore asked the consultant from SHN, Bob Brown, if the city had yet approved pre-engineering plans for the ADU's so those interested could simply purchase a plan and avoid the cost of hiring an engineer.

"We need to focus on something we can target in a more immediate manner."

City Manager Eric Weir emphatically agreed, "We need to do everything we can as a city. We are in a housing crisis."

Providing pre-engineered designs for ADU's could save between \$15,000 and \$20,000 per home. The hope as expressed by the council is that less expensive small homes might assist renters who have been priced out of the market. Crescent City's waiting list even for those who have housing vouchers from Housing and Urban Development is long and for many can mean months or years without housing.

SHN's Brown indicated the draft plans were in the works and Weir requested they be brought back to council for approval.

In the meantime, the entire housing element will require at least one public hearing and months of planning before being finalized by the deadline in August of next year.

Finally, council also took up the issue of a shared welcome center with the National Parks and the Redwood Park Conservancy as well as the Chamber of Commerce.

The idea is to shift from having two welcome centers across from each other, one donated to parks and the other to Crescent City, that they be combined to create one experience and to encourage people not to simply travel through Crescent City, but to stop there too.

"It's a great idea. Having them combined will increase the quality of time here," said Mayor Jason Greenough. Councilor Beau Smith agreed saying, "One stop shop, I think it's a great idea."

The concept is that visitors could get their National Parks Information and Crescent City at the same time so that they can see the merits of both. "If we're together when people stop in, we can do it so much better," Chamber of Commerce President Cindy Vosburg.

The city authorized a phase one expenditure of \$25,000, the Redwood Parks Conservancy is offering a grant of \$21,523 to start the planning process with Greenworks.

When finished, the single welcome center will direct all visitors to the attractions of the area for years to come, according to Mayor Jason Greenough, “This will outlive all of us and I think this is a great thing.”