



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Jessica Carpenter, Director of Community Experiences

Date: April 25, 2023

Reference: **Presentation and discussion regarding a proposed Veterans Memorial in Coppell**

2040: Foster an Inclusive Community Fabric

Introduction:

This purpose of this agenda item is to provide an update regarding the public input process and proposed design concept, selected by a Focus Group of community members and the Parks and Recreation Board, for a Veterans Memorial in Coppell. Staff is seeking some feedback and direction regarding the design concept, as recommended by both the Community Member Focus Group and the Parks and Recreation Board.

Background:

In recent years, there have been community requests for a Veterans Memorial and a dedicated space to hold events and ceremonies as well as provide education relating to military service. Recognizing this as a need, City Council opted to fund the construction of a memorial in the fiscal year 22-23 budget.

The public input process for this project began with a Focus Group of community members, with an emphasis on veterans. Participants in the Focus Group were nominated by City Council members and solicited to participate through the City's social media channels. It was not a requirement that Focus Group members be veterans themselves. The Focus Group was asked to reflect on their military service and envision what a Veterans Memorial may look like in Coppell. The group discussed proposed locations, design elements, and how the space could be used for events.

The feedback from the Focus Group was used to provide direction to the consultant for the conceptual design process. From this feedback, the consultant, Olsson Studio, created conceptual designs for a "Veterans Plaza" to be located in the plaza area behind Town Center. The Focus Group was brought back together to review two concepts and arrived at a majority consensus on one conceptual design.

The Parks and Recreation Board also reviewed the same two concepts at their April meeting and received an update on the feedback from the Focus Group. After review and discussion, the Parks and Recreation Board selected the same design concept and location as the Focus Group.

Benefit to the Community:

This project will provide a dedicated space in Coppel to honor the current and former service and sacrifice of military members and their loved ones.

Legal Review:

No legal review is required for this agenda item at this time.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact relating to this agenda item at this time.

Recommendation:

This is an informational update. Staff are seeking Council direction regarding next steps for this item.