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**SEMINOLE COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
AGENDA MEMORANDUM****SUBJECT:** Heroes Memorial Update**DEPARTMENT:** Administrative Services**DIVISION:** Support Services**AUTHORIZED BY:** Frank Raymond**CONTACT:** Cindy Coto**EXT:** 7211**MOTION/RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff is seeking direction from the Board regarding the following items for the Heroes Memorial (Law Enforcement, Fire Fighters, and Veterans):

- Identification of the proposed location for the memorial;
- Authorization to prepare and advertise a request-for-proposal (RFP) for design services;
- Authorization to utilize funds from the \$300,000 currently budgeted in the General Fund for the design phase.

County-wide

Cindy Coto

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**BACKGROUND:**

In July 2000, the Sheriff's Office and Seminole County staff began working on developing plans for the Eugene Gregory Law Enforcement Memorial Park. During the first public hearing in September 2001, the Board of County Commissioners recommended placing \$140,000 in reserve for this Park. On November 13, 2001, the Board directed staff to return with a plan for staging the development of the proposed Park with committed funds from private sources, in-kind services and a contribution from the Sheriff's Law Enforcement Trust Fund for construction of a substation on the Park site.

On August 13, 2002, Library and Leisure Services staff presented an update of the proposed site plan, financial plan, construction management update, operation and maintenance proposal and staff conclusions. The Board approved the development of the Park based upon the Phase I recommendation of staff with the cooperative management of the Park by Seminole County Parks and Recreation Division and the Sheriff's Office and authorized \$100,000 of reserve funds providing the project was approved by regulatory authorities.

Between 2002 and 2005, staff worked with the Sheriff's Office in contacting homeowners, conducting community meetings, conducting fund raising events and locating possible site alternatives. On February 8, 2005, staff presented an agenda item to the Board that requested authorization for the acquisition of forty-four (44) acres located on Lake Harney for \$187,608. The Board did not authorize negotiation for the entire 44 acres and instead directed staff to negotiate for 20 acres and bring back at a later date.

On July 26, 2005, staff presented the negotiated price of \$359,000 for 20 acres and sought direction of the acquisition. The Board instructed staff to discontinue negotiating for the 20 acres and to put the Park on hold and explore other ways to appropriately recognize not only Officer Gregory but other fallen officers as well. The Board suggested the Five Points area may be better due to the central location within the County and higher visibility.

On March 28, 2006, the County's consultant, ZHA presented a conceptual plan for the Five Points Master Plan. On this Plan, the location of the memorial was proposed to be placed in front of the Criminal Justice Center. On June 27, 2006, staff presented the negotiated purchase for property (Auto World) located adjacent to Five Points and the Board directed staff to complete the purchase. Additionally, the Board directed staff to develop a request-for-proposal (RFP) for a consultant to develop a memorial to include law enforcement, fire fighters and veterans. Further direction included that the memorial be county-wide and a reflective type park.

On February 13, 2007, staff requested direction from the Board and were given authorization to form a committee, begin researching names of veterans, and to develop a timeline for the project. The committee has representation from the Sheriff's Office, Public Safety, Seminole County Veterans Office, volunteers and staff. A firm location for the memorial was not identified.

On May 22, 2007, the Board approved establishing a 501(c) 3 corporation for the Heroes Memorial Fund and authorized Commissioner Van Der Weide to work with the County Manager and County Attorney offices to look at creating the non-profit heroes memorial. The Seminole County Heroes Memorial Association, Inc. (SCHMA) was incorporated with the State of Florida on August 1, 2007. On August 29, 2007, the first meeting was held to handle housekeeping items for the corporation. The application to the IRS for tax exempt status is complete.

The current funding available in the General Fund for the project is \$300,000. Through the Seminole County Heroes Memorial Association, Inc., additional funds may be received from donations. These donations will be used for costs of design and construction of the Heroes Memorial, with any remaining funds used for maintenance.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

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<b>Additionally Reviewed By:</b> No additional reviews
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