

# **ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS**

Village Council Meeting – January 26, 2017

Islamorada Historic Preservation Commission Report

## **Hurricane Monument Expansion Project**

### **Major Findings of Committee**

**1. Memorialization should be same for the civilian population & veterans alike.**

All of the victims who lost their lives have a commonality in that the last chapter in the these individual's "Book of Life" came to essentially the same conclusion on the same time & date in our Islamorada area due to the effects of this historic and catastrophic, natural event of the Great Labor Day Hurricane of 1935.

**2. The front portion of the existing monument, its crypt, permanent seating, hardscape and landscaping should remain as is.**

A) The SW front portion of the Monument has been used for 67 years as the ceremonial location for such events as Labor Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day and others. The surrounding hardscape areas continue to be an important area to accommodate these activities and their attendees.

B) The existing landscaping in this area is finally maturing & with the outstanding maintenance schedule provided by the Village, is coming together forming a beautiful visual design composition to provide support of the Monuments aesthetic appeal.

C) The architectural components and landscaping features described above on the SW portion of the site, comprise approximately 10,392 square feet or 93% of the land area in this section. The remaining 7% is a narrow open grass strip area of approximately 10 feet wide by 70 feet long or approximately 725 square feet, abutting the property line adjacent to FDOT U.S. Highway No. 1 R.O.W. Any further development in this small area would begin to provide over use and detract from the overall current aesthetic appeal of this portion of the site.

**3. Based on the above findings, the most appropriate location to memorialize & recognize those who lost their lives in the Labor Day Hurricane of 1935, is that area immediately behind the Hurricane Monument and ends at the site's Northeasterly property line abutting Matecumbe Memorial Gardens.**

**4. The existing map & historical information plaques/tablets have laid the basic foundation. Now is the appropriate time to redo and enlarged this area. By doing so it will make it easier for those who'll come to Monument in the future to learn a little bit about the year 1935. One of the most important elements of this expansion is to add additional information about both the individual civilians and veterans who perished here, providing for a more personalized feeling to those who lost their lives in this calamitous event.**

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5. **With all of the above in mind, it has become evident to the Islamorada's Historic Preservation Commission, that the proper course in moving forward with this project and ensure that the end result looks professional and something all of us in this community can be very proud.**

**Let's put out an RFQ or RFP to interested entities that have with the appropriate ability to design, a museum type quality exhibit. The HPC in conjunction with Village Staff, and as approved by Village Council, shall provide this Request with the new program requirements that will guidance to the resposdee's submittals. The Islamorada's Historic Preservation Commission members are ready to serve in this capacity, and hope that the Council will give us permission to move in this direction as soon as possible.**