



**March 18, 2013**

The Coos Bay City Council is scheduled to discuss the future of the Vietnam War Memorial in Mingus Park at its upcoming meeting on April 2, 2013. On February 7, 2013, the City received a letter from the Freedom from Religion Foundation requesting the removal of the memorial as they believe its shape, a cross, is an unconstitutional endorsement of religion.

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Department  
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To allow for a larger audience, the April 2, 2013 Council meeting will be held in the Myrtle room at the Coos Bay Public Library. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 7:00 pm and the public will be provided with an opportunity to share their thoughts on the matter.

The memorial was donated and placed in the park in 1972 by Western Bank and the Bay Area Jaycees. On October 19, 2010, Landy Marshall, a former member of the Bay Area Jaycees who helped construct and install the memorial, appeared before the City Council and requested that the City rehabilitate the memorial as the finish had deteriorated over the years due to exposure to the weather. During the summer of 2011, city staff attempted to clean the memorial by pressure washing it. When the pressure washing failed to make any visible improvements, the City contracted with a local firm to rejuvenate the monument by pressure grouting a thin layer of grout over its exterior.

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