

RESOLUTION NO. 104 (20-21)

A Resolution of acknowledgement and support of the work and fund-raising efforts of The Start Westward Monument Society, Inc., soon to be re-titled The Start Westward Memorial Society, Inc., an Ohio non-profit corporation, regarding the restoration and preservation of The Memorial Monument to the Start Westward of the United States, located in Muskingum Park, in the City of Marietta, Ohio.

WHEREAS, The Memorial Monument to the Start Westward, located in Muskingum Park, Marietta, Ohio, was designed by the world-famous sculptor, Gutzon Borglum; and,

WHEREAS, the Memorial Monument was constructed in 1937 and 1938 from sandstone quarried in Washington County, Ohio; and,

WHEREAS, the Memorial Monument was dedicated on July 8, 1938, by U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, as part of the Sesquicentennial celebration of the founding of the City of Marietta in the Northwest Territory in the year 1788; and,

WHEREAS, according to contemporary records, Gutzon Borglum was displeased with the sandstone used to build the Memorial Monument and warned that the sandstone would deteriorate; and,

WHEREAS, Borglum wanted the Memorial Monument to be built of bronze, and refused to take part in the Sesquicentennial celebration because of the material used for the sculpture; and,

WHEREAS, the condition of the Memorial Monument has deteriorated significantly, due to the effects of weathering; and,

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WHEREAS, the Start Westward Monument Society, Inc., was formed on August 16, 2019, with the following objectives and purposes:

- A. to ensure the permanence of the Start Westward Monument (Memorial) so that it may continue to serve as a symbol of the pioneers who settled Marietta and began the nation's expansion into the Northwest Territory;
- B. to restore, preserve and protect the Start Westward Monument;
- C. to foster, promote and stimulate public knowledge of and interest in the history of the Start Westward Monument and Marietta, Ohio;

WHEREAS, the Start Westward Monument Society, Inc., after months of research, discussions with the family of Gutzon Borglum, having reviewed structural reports pertaining to the condition of the Memorial Monument, and having considered the costs involved, is recommending the replacement of the current Memorial Monument sculpture with a bronze replicate; and,

WHEREAS, the Start Westward Monument Society, Inc. is charged to provide education and support concerning the Memorial Monument through private-sector funding; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARIETTA, OHIO:

Section 1: That the Marietta City Council acknowledges that the Memorial Monument to the Start Westward us an indelible and significant part of the history of Marietta, Ohio and a centerpiece of Muskingum Park.

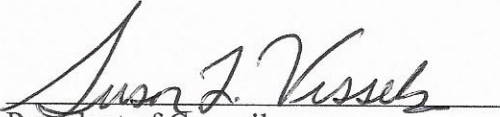
Section 2: That the Marietta City Council acknowledges that significant deterioration of the Memorial Monument has occurred in the 83 years since it was erected.

- Section 3: That the Marietta City Council acknowledges the efforts of The Start Westward Monument Society, Inc., to preserve the Memorial Monument to the Start Westward, and supports the efforts of the Society to ensure the permanence of the Memorial Monument by replacing the present sculpture with a bronze replication.
- Section 4: That the Marietta City Council supports fund-raising efforts of the Start Westward Monument Society, Inc., as it raises tax-deductible monies from private donors to assist in paying for the replacement of the present Memorial Monument statue with a bronze replicate.
- Section 5: That the Marietta City Council supports the promotion of public knowledge and interest in the history of the Memorial Monument through the efforts of the Start Westward Monument Society, Inc., and other entities in collaboration.
- Section 6: That this Resolution shall take effect and be in full force from and after the earliest time allowed by law.

Introduced by the Lands, Buildings and Parks Committee, William Farnsworth, Chairman.

  
Chairman

Passed this 5<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2021.

  
President of Council

ATTEST:  
  
Clerk of Council

Approved this 5 day of August, 2021.



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Mayor

First Reading August 5, 2021

Second Reading Suspended

Third Reading Suspended