

Tinley Park Veterans Commission
Minutes of the June 8, 2011 Meeting

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 1857 hrs.

Present:

Wiley Roberts – Chairman
Dave Seaman – Liaison Trustee
Mike Gibbons – Vice-Chairman
Norm Pestlin – Secretary
Matt Heffernan
Colleen Simon
Bruce Lorence

Bill Conner
Dave Montee – Commander, American Legion
Arlene Morley
Jack Morley
Thomas Donnelly – Marine Corp League
Sam English – KWVA

Excused: Jerry Styrsky – Commander VFW Post 2791, Donna Gibbons – American Legion Aux, Eva Reyes-Seitz – VFW Aux

Absent: Phil Clarke, Ken Fulton, Robert Baisa, Ken Wrezzes, Bill Hoffman - US Submarine Veterans,

Corrections/additions to minutes of the last meeting:

A motion was made seconded and passed to accept the minutes of the last meeting as published.

Remarks by Trustee Seaman:

DPW has submitted proposed locations along Veterans Pkwy for the tank we are trying to acquire. A concrete pad for a tank could cost as much as \$1,500.00; a less expensive option would be a crushed stone pad. The project could be partially funded by selling memorial paver bricks.

Memorial Flag and Citation:

Due to the confusion we have experienced in trying to figure out where the flags and citations are we are going to resubmit the names for memorial flags and start over again. The flags will be presented to the families in American made 3 sided display cases. Commission members are asked to look for prices on these cases.

Wiley would like to arrange for the name of the person whose flag is being flown to be displayed on the electronic sign across the street from the flag pole at Oak Park & Hickory. In the future flags could also be flown at the 80th Ave station and the Blue/Gold star memorial. The names of the people whose flags are being flown at these locations could be published in the newspapers.

Publicity and Public Relations:

We would like to see a veterans section/column in the newspaper. Wiley suggested that commission members write small articles about the commission and its activities and submit them at our meeting for review. The commission's web page has been updated with a new message from the chairman.

Memorial Day - 5/30/11:

There seemed to be some confusion about the start time this year, next year the band will start at 10:30am and the main program at 11:00am.

4th of July Activities:

Wiley will be available for comments at McCarthy Park if needed. The Colors will be raised by the American Legion and the VFW at 4:00pm.

9/11 Remembrance (Patriots Day):

This will run the same day as the Kevin Clarke motorcycle run and the Fine Arts Parade. We still need to find out what is needed from the commission to support these events.

Armed Forces Day – 5/21/11:

The ceremony held at the Blue / Gold Star memorial on May 21st was fairly well attended. We need to get more publicity on it for next year.

Colonel David G. Seaman Volunteer Award:

The chairman asked the commissioners to start thinking about nominees for this year's award.

All Service Breakfast - Oct. 1, 2011:

It was suggested that the era of the veterans service be included on the sign-up sheet. We will ask the Legacy Girls to do a 60's-70's show at the breakfast this year.

Education in Art in Public Buildings:

The artwork is framed and waiting for presentation on 11/11/11.

Static Display for Veterans Parkway:

A letter to TACOM requesting the Sheridan tank that is at Ft. Sheridan has been signed by the Mayor, Clerk and the Commission Chairman and will be mailed tomorrow. Dave Montee reported on his efforts at obtaining a static display piece.

Yellow ribbon program:

On May 21st the commission with volunteer help that even came from outside the Village, put up over 450 yellow ribbons throughout the town. We are planning on selling ribbons, at a discounted rate, to local Boy Scout Troops and Little League teams to use as a fundraiser.

Honor Flight Chicago:

We will continue to support Honor Flight fundraisers and homecoming celebrations.

Correspondence:

Our budget and expenditure report was reviewed.

New Business:

Norm reported on a conversation he had with Judy B regarding her trip to Duluth, GA where she and Mayor Zabrocki saw a flag and cross memorial set up along the highway. The memorial consists of a cross with a veteran's name on it topped by an American flag. The flag/cross memorial was sold, much as paver memorial bricks would be, and displayed 1 week before and after Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Trustee Seaman felt that this could be an additional source of revenue but that we should try the paver idea first.

REPORT FROM THE V.F.W.:

Cruise night started yesterday, Northbound Oak Park Ave will be closed on Tuesday evenings throughout the summer. Our State convention will be from June 21st to the 26th. We put up some new statues in front of the post representing the branches of service.

REPORT FROM THE V.F.W. AUXILLARY:

No Report

REPORT FROM THE AMERICAN LEGION:

We passed out Blue & Gold star flags to the families at the memorial ceremony. June 26th is our annual picnic. Boy's State is coming up shortly, our 2 candidates were at our meeting last night. Nominations for the Police and Fire fighter of the year awards are being taken.

REPORT FROM THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILLARY:

No Report

REPORT FROM THE CHICAGO BASE U.S.SUBMARINE VETERANS:

No Report

REPORT FROM THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION:

This Friday & Saturday will be our last Daisy Days.
(After the meeting, Sam English – KWVA, asked to be removed from the mailing list.)

REPORT FROM THE MARINE CORP LEAGUE:

No Report

Any other business

Bob Shaffner, incoming Commander of the American Legion, asked Dave Montee to stay on the commission as Legion representative so he can complete the work he started on the 9/11 program.

The meeting was adjourned at 2040 hrs.
The next Commission meeting will be Sept. 14, 2011