

Tinley Park Veteran's Commission

May 13, 2026 Veteran's Commission Meeting

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 7:02 p.m. Housekeeping items for the good of the order were announced. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

P=Present / E=Excused / A=Absent

P - Dr. Doug Rasmussen, DC - Chairman	P - Colleen Sullivan, Trustee Liaison
P - Roxane Tyssen-Secretary	A - Pat Carr, Staff Liaison
E - Robert Bullard - US Sub Vets	P - Robert Colby
P - Mark Ethridge	P - Bruce Haffner
P - Chris Hansley-VFW Aux. Treasurer	E - Jimmy Hunter
P - Steve Noodwang	P - Norm Pestlin
P - Georges Sanon	E - Nick Suleyman (Assoc. Commissioner)
E - Paul Windish	
P - Fred Cagle – VFW Commander (ex-officio)	
A - Mike Rowan, Commander Amer. Legion (ex-officio)	

Minutes of the last meeting:

- Minutes from the April 2026 meeting were read. Chris Hansley made a motion to approve as amended. Mark Ethridge seconded, all approved. Minutes passed.

Chairman Rasmussen made two announcements.

- A moment of silence was given for Officer Greg King's father who recently passed.
- "Speedy" Gonzalez, had relocated to Florida and has recently passed away. He was, for a time, the chaplain for the Marine Corps League at the VFW. He will be buried at Lincoln Memorial but the details have not been shared yet. Cmdr. Cagle stated that

Remarks by Trustee Liaison:

- Trustee Sullivan will add comments as they come up during the meeting.

Static Display for Veterans Parkway:

- There are no updates on equipment.

Education in Art in Public Places:

- Bruce has a frame for the Henry Harding poster but has nowhere to hang it once it is framed. Roxane mentioned that he should talk to Dave Galetti about putting it on one of the walls at the Public Safety Building.

Correspondence:

- Lisa Valley sent an email regarding changes to the brick/banner program. There was a change of dates for the banner program. Updated copies of the form were handed out. Roxane stated that the Village website has been updated with the new information.
 - It was reiterated that the banners are returned to the purchaser at the end of the display season.

Ongoing Business:

- Memorial Day:
 - A quick review of the agenda for the event was done.
 - Any final requests were stated – chairs for the band, wreath, railings for the stage, Battlefield Cross, etc.
- America's 250th / Independence Day / July 4th Celebrations:
 - Benches:
 - Chairman Rasmussen again thanked Colleen and Mark for all the work they did on the bench.
 - Trustee Sullivan mentioned that Ed & Joe's sponsored the Commission's bench. Kelly Oswald from Marketing will talk to Ellen & Mike to see if they would be willing to donate the bench to a veteran's organization at the end of the season.
 - There is an awards ceremony on August 22nd for the 'best of' benches.
- July 4th Celebrations:
 - The park district is cutting back on some of the entertainment.
 - Marketing is unable to confirm how/in what capacity that the veterans/veteran's groups involved in the ceremonies.
 - Country Music Fest:
 - There may be opportunities to have a tent and for veterans/groups to be involved with that 3-day fest. Colleen will speak with the people running the event and get back to Doug.
 - Getting some SWAG to giveaway was discussed. Colleen mentioned she will look into it and talk with Pam in marketing.
 - Georges Sanon made the motion on the table to have the Veteran's commission to have a table/tent on the 4th at the park district event, and on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th at the country music event, that will provide information on the commission, VFW and American Legion. There is a \$500 cap if marketing assists with payment of SWAG, otherwise \$750 max from the commission to purchase SWAG for both of these events. The SWAG will be VOTP/Veteran's Commission. Steve Noodwang seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
 - Steve Noodwang asked about honor guard involvement, Trustee Sullivan will ask and get back to him.
- KIA Memorial:
 - Colleen updated the commission on the call/meeting. It ended up being a site visit and she discussed what the thoughts are on where things will be placed. They are working on the layout first and how the equipment be connected.
 - Doug created a AI layout of what his thoughts were on how it should look and where he felt would be the best place for it. The rendition was printed and passed around to the commissioners.
 - Potential sponsorship to offset some of the costs for the actual monument were glossed over.
 - The commission was invited to submit any of their ideas.
- Honorary Street Signs:

- Steve Noodwang mentioned that there is a municipal code in Chicago for honorary street signs. Steve mentioned that it was well written and covered everything we have discussed prior.
 - We can use this as a template for our ordinance.

New Business:

- “Challenge” coin:
 - Trustee Sullivan updated the commission. This coin will represent the Village. The coin will be given to veterans first and then residents, it will also be available for purchase by the public.
 - We are hoping to have it done and in-hand by Memorial Day, but for sure by the July 4 celebrations.
- VFW Auxiliary golf outing support was mentioned by Chairman Rasmussen.
 - Monetary support for veteran initiatives was discussed.
 - Further discussions with Village staff is recommended.

Mark Ethridge made the following motion: Contingent upon Village approval, the Commission motions to support for the VFW Auxiliary initiative that benefits veterans in our community. This support should not exceed \$250. Georges seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- Nothing to report.

REPORTS:

- Report from the VFW:
 - Cruise Nights are on schedule for Tuesday’s over the summer.
 - VFW Aux: Aux Golf Outing is on August 1st.
 - Steve Noodwang also mentioned that on the VFW website there is a way to submit information when a member passes. This information is then compiled on a list that is on-going.
 - Trustee Sullivan will look into the auto submission.
 - He also mentioned that the VFW website also has links to veteran’s resources on their webpage.
- American Legion:
 - The hall is available for the All Service Breakfast.

Announcements:

- Georges Sanon handed out information for the VA resource navigator. The VA is now using QR codes to make information easier to find.
- Copies of photos of the presentation at Andrew High School to their student council were passed around.

Public Comments:

- Nothing to report.

Adjournment:

- Chairman Rasmussen asked for a motion to adjourn, Chris Hansley made the motion, Mark Ethridge seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 12, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Kallsen Center.