



VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMISSION November 2, 2015 Minutes

Call to Order

Chairman Sommerville called the meeting to order at approximately 7:02 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Walt Sitzwohl, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance and Chairman Sommerville led a short prayer.

Roll Call

Members Present: Chairman Michael Sommerville, Vice Chairman Ericka Oxford, Walter Sitzwohl, Jr., John Gonzales, Karen Levy, David Kampmann, Francine King, Laura Roodhouse, Bob Zahner and Win Hill

Members Absent: Michael Sanchez (excused), Forrest Routh (excused), Casey Grau, Donald Abernathy (alt) and Alderman Terri Violet

Guests Present: Alderman Patrick Barclay and George Newell

Approval of Minutes

John Gonzales made a motion to approve the minutes. Dave Kampmann seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the minutes for the November 2, 2015 meeting were accepted.

Election of Officers

Chairman Sommerville asked for nominations for officers as members entered the room for the meeting. Michael Sommerville, Walter Sitzwohl, Jr., David Kampmann, Bob Zahner asked not to be included in the nominations.

After nominations were received and votes were taken, the following were selected as Veterans Memorial Commission officers for 2016:

Chair – Ericka Oxford, Vice Chair – John Gonzales, Chaplain – Karen Levy, Sargent at Arms – Win Hill, and Secretary – Francine King. The position of Service Officer was tabled until the next meeting.

Memorial Day

The Committees will get together outside of the official meeting to discuss Memorial Day and report back at the next meeting.

Karen Levy proposed contacting Margot Reed to get the Women's Auxiliary Color Guard for Memorial Day. Karen has her contact information.

50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War

The Commission discussed the requirements for being a Commemorative Partner for the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War, a program that assists in thanking Vietnam Veterans and their families in their hometowns. The requirements state that the events can be as simple or as gran as you desire and in conjunction with other events already planned. There should be two events per year through 2018.

The Commission consensus was to not include this with Memorial Day, as inappropriate with the spirit of Memorial Day. The Commission decided it would be appropriate each year through 2018 to recognize Vietnam veterans on Veterans Day at the City Centre Memorial site and at a Board of Aldermen meeting. Michael Sommerville stated that due to size and safety concerns, the City Centre Memorial site should be used for ceremonies and the Willott Road/Jungermann Road site be used as a place where veterans could go to reflect.

Committees

Michael Sommerville refreshed everyone on who is on what committee for the events. On the speaker committee is the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Karen Levy and Michael Sanchez. On the Honor Guard/Color Guard Committee are Laura Roodhouse, Forrest Routh and Dave Kampmann. On the Operations Committee (contacting Fire Dept., singer, helicopter, food, etc.) are Chairman Oxford, Water Sitzwohl, Jr., Bob Zahner, Francine King and Win Hill.

A suggestion was made to create a "continuity book" containing documents, points of contact used annually in planning events.

Wreaths Across America

Discussion took place as to how the commission could get involved with Wreaths Across America. One possibility discussed was to help place wreaths at Jefferson Barracks. Another idea was to have a ceremony and lay wreaths on veterans' graves at St. Charles Memorial Gardens. This could involve the scouts, etc. Ericka will call Keith Morris regarding this possibility.

For the Good of the Veterans Community

Michael Sommerville announced that the Veterans Commission would host a Veteran's Coffee at the St. Peters Senior Center on Tuesday, March 8 at 9 a.m. Michael suggested anyone attending please make a donation to the Senior Center for the coffee. All veterans in the community are welcome to attend. Carole will see if this can be posted to the City's web site.

Comments from the Floor

Carole requested that each Commission member complete a volunteer timesheet for any time spent outside of the meetings and turn them in at the next meeting. Time sheets were handed out.

George Newell reported that the V.F.W. post in St. Charles will host a veterans' service officer event on Saturday, Feb. 20, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. There is no charge for this event, but veterans are asked to bring with them their DD Form 214.

Grace Baptist Church on Ehlmann Road has a Veterans Coffee every Wednesday.

Karen Levy proposed the Commission add Len Berkel and George Newell as advisors to the Commission. This was tabled to the next meeting.

Chairman Oxford announced that on April 2, Excel Gym will host a dodge ball tournament to benefit the military services and first responders.

Karen invited anyone who wanted to attend the Air Show to let her know and she would provide tickets. If anyone wants to help, let her know. She said this is a live static event of the different wars.

Laura Roodhouse, Michael Sommerville, Ericka Oxford went to the St. Peters Senior Center for their Christmas Party as part of Community Outreach efforts.

Walt Sitzwohl, Jr. mentioned that the Purple Heart flag at the Veterans Memorial South site needs to be replaced. Carole will mention it to person responsible.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting has been scheduled for March 7, 2016, at 7 p.m. at St. Peters Cultural Arts Centre.

Adjournment

Michael Sommerville moved and Walter Sitzwohl, Jr. seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Carole Stangle

Date