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MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2015
7:05 P.M.
VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMISSION

Commission Members Present: Ralph Pechanio, William Shanklin, Paul Tilton, David Gass, Marie Weibler, Elaine Jason, and Bradley Anderson

Commission Members Absent: Mark Mulliner

Guests Present: None

1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pechanio at 7:05 p.m.

2) Approve Minutes of May 21, 2015

Motion to approve by Dave Gass and seconded by Marie Weibler. Minutes approved unanimously.

3) Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mulliner was absent, no report.

4) Reports from Commission Members

a) Administration:

Chairman Pechanio distributed both the final Honor Roll Schedule detailing three conducted services and the 2016 schedule of available dates. He also distributed a thank you note from Nanette Lyndquist regarding the services held on June 21st and 28th. In regards to the 2016 schedule members are encouraged to follow-up with the families of deceased VFW and American Legion Veterans who have passed on.

The Commission's clergy position remains vacant and Chairman Pechanio asked for suggestions. He stated he will contact past member Chaplain M. Scott Matheny for references as he is active in the Elmhurst Clergy organization. Don Kempf of the Legion provided Chairman Pechanio a written report on lights not working at the Memorial, which was handed over to Park District member, Brad Anderson, for necessary repairs.

b) American Legion:

William Shanklin reported that John Scudder is the Post's new Commander. After a brief report on current activities, Bill commented on the new efforts to allow

electronic gaming in Elmhurst. At Chairman Pechanio's suggestion, Bill provided a motion, seconded by Paul Tilton, to request that the Elmhurst City Council approve State of Illinois authorized electronic gaming for the Elmhurst American Legion Post #187. This proposal was passed unanimously and it was agreed that Chairman Pechanio should inform the City Council in writing of this requested action.

c) **VFW:**

Dave Gass, as previously reported, informed the Commission that Tim Connolly is their new Commander. He also told the members that the VFW Post is working on new plans to update their Villa Park Veterans Memorial. He will update us as the plans progress.

d) **American Legion Auxiliary:**

Elaine Jason reported that elections have been held and the new Auxiliary President is Rosemary Drain (630)530-0582. She also reported that she and Marie Weibler have developed informational signs to be placed in the Roll of Remembrance during the winter months. It will also include a note that will refer anyone wishing to honor a veteran to City Hall, along with the City's phone number.

e) **VFW Auxiliary:**

Marie Weibler reported that Virginia Proffitt is their new President. She also told us that as authorized by their National by-laws the Post will be combining the men's and women's auxiliaries into one organization beginning next year.

f) **Clergy:**

Position vacant – no report.

g) **Park District:**

Brad Anderson passed along Elmhurst Park District Superintendent Jim Roger's appreciation to our Commission for our attention to the Elmhurst Veterans Memorial and our conducting of both Veterans Day and Memorial Day programs. Brad provided us with a new improved schematic of the Veterans Memorial set-up that was prepared by their new Landscape Architect, who is pleased to share her talents and resources with the Commission.

h) **School District:**

Paul Tilton reported that York High School has begun planning their annual Veterans Day Program to be conducted early morning in the gymnasium on Wednesday, November 11th. More information will follow. Paul also said that he will be contacting the Key Club at York to see if they would like to help with our Veterans Day program at the Memorial and determine if they can be excused from school to do so. At Bill Shanklin's standing request, he will arrange for a drummer and two buglers to take part in the Veterans Day service at the Memorial.

5) Review of Memorial Day Activities, May 25, 2015

Chairman Pechanio, who also co-chaired the Memorial Day Parade with John Quigley of the Elmhurst Chamber of Commerce, reported that the day of the parade there was poor weather, with heavy rain shortly after the parade stepped off. The parade was conducted with great participation by all units and the attendance was beyond our expectations. The Memorial Service was moved inside to the Wilder Mansion per the back-up plan accommodations by the Park District. The program was necessarily modified by MC Bill Shanklin and was well received by an overflow, appreciative crowd. Chairman Pechanio informed the Commission that he and John Quigley will again serve as co-chairs for the May 30, 2016 Memorial Day Parade activities.

6) Plans for Veteran's Day, Monday, November 11, 2015

Bill Shanklin said he has just begun the planning process and will follow our past programs as a guide. Last year's poor weather has prompted Bill to consider an offer by Elmhurst College's Veterans Affairs Coordinator, Jeremy Giacomino of making the main room at the Frick Center available to use as a back-up in place of the previously arranged Wilder Mansion. The members agreed Bill should follow-up and see if the facility can be reserved as a contingency plan. He will also review the logistics with Mrs. Urick, our Comcast video representative.

Chairman Pechanio asked Bill what the status of Kevin Calkins plans to rededicate the Wilder Park's Elmhurst KIA plaque on Veterans Day? Bill responded that as far as he knows, the rededication will not take place this year! Ralph will send Kevin a note, along with the minutes and a notice for our October meeting for his input.

7) Other Business

None.

8) Public Comment

None.

9) Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date was established as Thursday, October 29, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

9) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Bill Shanklin, seconded by Brad Anderson. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Submitted by Elaine K. Jason, Secretary