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MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY, September 22, 2016
7:00 P.M.
VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMISSION

Commission Members Present: Ralph Pechanio, William Shanklin, Paul Tilton, David Gass, Brad Anderson, Mark Mulliner, and Rev. Stanley Harding.

Commission Members Absent: Elain Jason and Marie Weibler

Guests Present: Jerry Christopherson, True Patriots Care, and Rosemary Draine, American Legion Post 187 Auxiliary Member.

1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pechanio at 6:55 p.m.

2) Approve Minutes of May 26, 2016

Motion to approve by Bill Shanklin and seconded by Dave Gass. Minutes approved unanimously.

3) Treasurer's Report

Treasurer reports a balance of \$1,691.54 as of September 15, 2016. Motion to accept Treasurer's Report by Dave Gass, seconded by Rev. Stan Harding. Approved by unanimous vote.

4) Reports from Commission Members

a) Administration:

Charman Pechanio distributed copies of our 2017 Honor Roll Calendar for the review and use of our committee in registering deceased veterans to be honored between, June and August of next year. He reported that he has corresponded with Mrs. Regina Prescott and Mr. Matt Bales regarding the reservation of 2017 dates.

Ralph also reported that our secretary and commission member Elaine Jason has provided notice that she is resigning her position. Elaine has served many years and has nominated our guest, Rosemary Draine to fill her vacancy representing the American Legion, Post 187 Auxilary. Ralph thanked Rosemary for her willingness to replace Elaine, and provided her the necessary application to be submitted to the Elmhurst City Council for their appointment.

Finally, he provided copies of our completed 2016 Honor Roll Schedule noting that the services held were most appreciated by the families or friends who arranged for the Veterans to be so honored.

b) **American Legion:**

William Shanklin reported on their first Inaugural Military Ball held on Saturday, September 10, a most successful event. A meeting was held to critique the event. Bill stressed that the event met its goal of introducing the Post to the Elmhurst community. Plans to build on the objectives of the fund raising will follow.

Bill then reported on the status of the American Legion Honor guard and the challenge of conducting our Sunday, Memorial events. The prospects for expanding the Legion members participating in the services aren't good. He will provide a plan to be implemented in 2017 that will limit the number of services held, expand the number of veterans honored as applicable, and include other groups to supplement the Legion Honor Guard members as necessary. He will report on his recommendations at our next meeting in October.

c) **VFW:**

David Gass reported that the Post facility is doing well. He has made an effort to get members active in our Elmhurst events but there is a divide as their location in Villa Park is a barrier to Elmhurst participation.

d) **American Legion Auxiliary:**

Elaine Jason, absent, no report.

e) **VFW Auxiliary:**

Marie Weibler absent, no report.

f) **Clergy:**

Rev. Stanley Harding, no report at this time.

g) **Park District:**

Brad Anderson reported that after a delay over the summer he personally power washed the brick floor of the memorial. Ralph thanked him for his attention to this matter.

h) **School District:**

Paul Tilton reported that even though he has now retired from York he continues to have contact with the Key Club in support of our Veterans Day and Memorial Day programs. Ralph mentioned that he and Paul met this summer to review the compiled history of Elmhurst service men who have been killed in action for possible inclusion in an expanded cross display at the Veterans Memorial for the 2017 Memorial Day weekend as "new" crosses are under construction. Ralph will report further at our October meeting

5) Review of Memorial Day Activities

Monday, May 30, 2016. Ralph who co-chaired the Parade and activities with John Quigley of the Elmhurst Chamber reported that Elmhurst again enthusiastically supported the Parade and Memorial Service held at the Veterans Memorial. The weather was good and the crowds beyond our expectations. Ralph then asked Bill Shanklin for his comments regarding the military service that he coordinates. Bill said he was pleased with how things went and looks forward to our 2017 event that Ralph and John will again organize.

6) Plans for Veterans Day Activities

Friday, November 11, 2016. Ralph opened the discussion, noting that the service will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the Memorial unless weather conditions dictate that we move inside to the Wilder Mansion. Ralph then turned over the planning discussion to our M.C Bill Shanklin for his 2016 update. Bill reported that he will prepare the official program for our review at our next meeting. He will prepare an alternate plan in case we have to abandon our outside service and use the Wilder Mansion space. Ralph thanked Brad Anderson for his help in coordinating the use of Wilder Mansion for restroom facilities and emergency quarters if needed.

7) Other Business

Mark Mulliner, our City representative said he will be putting in a request for the 2nd annual grant of \$50,000 to the Elmhurst American Legion Post 187 to be disbursed in 2017 for their needs.

8) Public Comment

Comments and a video presentation by Jerry Christopherson of York High School and the True Patriots Care Organization. Jerry heads the group of volunteers who do special U.S. Flag presentations. The video was of his current 9/11 15th Anniversary presentation in West Dundee, IL. He would be pleased to do a presentation on Memorial Day weekend at Wilder Park, adjacent to the Veterans Memorial. Plans will be coordinated by the 2017 Elmhurst Memorial Day Parade Committee.

Rosemary Draine, the current President of the American Legion Auxiliary and the Poppy Day Chairperson formally introduced herself to the Commission members. She will prepare the City's application and submit it for approval as soon as possible.

9) Next Meeting Date

The next commission meeting will be held on Thursday, 7pm, October 27, 2016.

9) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Brad Anderson, seconded by Bill Shanklin. The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Submitted by Ralph Pechanio, Chairman