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MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY, May 25, 2017
7:00 P.M.
VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMISSION

Commission Members Present: Ralph Pechanio, William Shanklin, Mark Mulliner, Rev. Stanley Harding, Rosemary Draine, David Gass, and Marie Weibler.

Commission Members Absent: None

Guests Present: Anne Scheppele of Elmhurst Park District

1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pechanio at 7:00 p.m.

2) Review Minutes of March 23, 2017 and Notes of April 27, 2017

Motion to approve was made by Paul Tilton, seconded by Bill Shanklin.
Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

3) Treasurer's Report

Treasurer reports a balance of \$1,831.05 as of May 15, 2017.
Motion to accept Treasurer's Report by Marie Weibler, seconded by Bill Shanklin. Approved by unanimous vote.

4) Reports from Commission Members

a) Administration:

Chairman Ralph Pechanio opened the meeting by reminding the members that we have a Military Service scheduled for Sunday, June 11 to honor Donald J. Bales. Press releases have been mailed to all of our local newspapers with Bales biography.

With Memorial Day Parade articles being published the City has received inquiries about how to honor a deceased Veteran. Ralph has responded to the inquiries, and Honor Roll application forms have been sent by the City's administrative staff to Mrs. Diana Keich, Mrs. Kathy Mullen-Boylan and Mrs. Nancy Hogan.

b) American Legion:

Bill Shanklin reported that Southwater signs is updating their outdoor signage, converting it to an electronic message sign. They are recognizing Middle School students for awards presented for excellence, patriotism, etc. as nominated by the schools. The

Post's finances have improved, losses have been reduced. Planning for the Military Ball to be held on Veterans Day evening are progressing.

c) **VFW:**

Dave Gass reported that they have a new commander, moving up from Sr. Vice Commander, Rick Schwerdner. Chuck Weibler will be joining Dave in our new combined Legion and VFW Memorial Day Parade Color Guard.

d) **American Legion Auxiliary:**

Rosemary Draine reported on their Poppy Day efforts today, May 25, and they will be at Wilder Park on Memorial Day. Annual elections for officers are to take place.

e) **VFW Auxiliary:**

Marie Weibler announced that she is the new President of the regional organization. The Auxiliary has added 75 members, primarily due to their gun range. The Auxiliary is for both women and men. Membership in the Auxiliary isn't strict like the VFW requirements.

f) **Clergy:**

Rev. Stanley Harding, reported that Immanuel Lutheran conducted a Memorial Day observation on Wednesday at the school chapel.

g) **Park District:**

Anne Scheppele reported that the Park District is in the process of nominating employee, Mike Monell to replace Brad Anderson on our commission, Mike works out of the Wagner Center.

Ralph thanked Anne for her assistance with the commission and the Memorial Day Parade committee that was required in Brad's absence.

As related to the Park District, Ralph reported that he was informed that Jerry Pask passed away during the winter. Jerry was a most valuable Park Planner and Architect, a longtime member of our commission and a Vietnam veteran who we honored as our 2015 Memorial Day Parade Grand Marshal just shortly before his official retirement from the Park District. The members expressed their regrets upon this news.

h) **School District:**

Paul Tilton confirmed York High School's musicians' participation at our Memorial Day Service. He also said some Key Club members may help with the flag display set up on May 25, however the school year ends on May 24. Other volunteers will help at 4:30 pm on May 25.

5) **Final Memorial Day 2017 Activities – Monday, May 29, 2017**

Ralph, who co-chairs the Parade with John Quigley of the Elmhurst Chamber distributed

copies of the 10 page 4 color program for review and discussion. Each page was discussed for comments and explanations. Parade units that have withdrawn were identified. The Military service particulars were explained by Bill Shanklin, our Master of Ceremonies. Ann Scheppele confirmed the Park's readiness and provided a copy of their detailed schematic plan that has been currently used.

Ralph reported that he and Don Kempf supervised the installation of 58 new crosses identifying deceased Veterans who had significant ties to Elmhurst. Ralph said that 5 members of the Lamda Chi Alpha, Elmhurst College fraternity set up the cross display. Ralph added that we need more participation as Don is trying to step away from this responsibility. The Legion should delegate someone as Don's replacement.

6) Other Business

Ralph opened for discussion two matters of importance that he had discussed with Don Kempf, our long standing American Legion member who is stepping down from responsibilities at the Veterans Memorial. He requested that we appoint someone to regularly check at the Memorial for burned out deck lights. Also he turned in his flag pole key, and Ralph and Don, discussed how we can better deal with the action required to lower the American flag to half-staff when ordered by the Governor of Illinois or the President of the U.S.A

Ralph asked our Park District attendee, Ann Scheppele if they could delegate these responsibilities to their staff. Ann replied that the electric department does monitor the lights, and their attention to this could be more clearly delegated. Ralph inquired as to who looks after other Park District flag poles. She said the only other flags they have are at the Wagner Center and the Courts. After some discussion she agreed that the parties responsible for these flags could also tend to the Memorial when necessary, however the key would have to be changed to match their flag pole locking devices. She will inform our soon to be new commissioner Mike Monell of this request. Ralph thanked her for her attention to this matter so that "all" the Park District American flags would be at a consistent full or half-staff position.

7) Public Comment

None other than participation by Anne Scheppele of the Elmhurst Park District

8) Next Meeting Date

The next commission meeting will be held on Thursday, 7pm, September 28, 2017.

9) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Marie Weibeler, seconded by Bill Shanklin. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Submitted by Rosemary L. Draine, Secretary