



CITY OF ELMHURST
209 NORTH YORK STREET
ELMHURST, ILLINOIS 60126-2759
(630) 530-3000
www.elmhurst.org

STEVEN M. MORLEY
MAYOR
PATTY SPENCER
CITY CLERK
ELAINE LIBOVICZ
CITY TREASURER
JAMES A. GRABOWSKI
CITY MANAGER

MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY, September 28, 2017
7:00 P.M.
VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMISSION

Commission Members Present: Ralph Pechanio, William Shanklin, Mark Mulliner, Rev. Stanley Harding, Rosemary Draine, Paul Tilton, Mike Monell, and David Gass.

Commission Members Absent: Marie Weibler

Guests Present: None

1) Call to Order

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

2) Review Minutes of May 25, 2017

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

3) Treasurer's Report

Treasurer reports a balance of \$2,650.07 as of September 15, 2017.
Motion to accept Treasurer's Report by Stan Harding, seconded by Dave Gass. Approved by unanimous vote.

4) Reports from Commission Members

a) Administration:

Chairman Ralph Pechanio opened the meeting the meeting by welcoming our new Elmhurst Park District representative Mike Monell and introducing him to our Commission members. He distributed copies of our Commission roster with contact information and copies of our final 2017 Honor Guard schedule. Ralph noted that it has been a most satisfying season of honoring deceased veterans with the final service scheduled on Sunday, October 22nd, with the flag of Veteran Larry D. Boys to be retired on Veterans Day, Saturday November 11 as a focal point of our service. Bill Shanklin and Ralph agreed to this special program as Mrs. Boys wished to honor her husband on the 50th Anniversary of his Bronze Star awards as a medical aid in Vietnam. Bill will inform

Kevin Calkins who will invite our local Vietnam Veterans to attend.

Ralph thanked the Honor Guard and both Marie Weibler and Rosemary Draine for their exemplary service over the summer in implementing our demanding schedule. Ralph also made the members aware of the high level of appreciation shown by the families of our Honorees as exemplified by their generous donations to our Commission Fund.

b) **American Legion:**

Bill Shanklin happily reported that the Legions new electronic message sign is up and operating thanks to a grant from the City. Expenditures of grant funds have been properly reported. The 2nd annual Military Ball will be held on Veterans Day, November 11, commencing with a cocktail hour at 6pm with dinner to follow at 7pm. The Normandy Room will have been remodeled with the help of a grant from the Home Depot, representatives of Home Depot will have a special invitation to attend. Home Depot is also providing a landscaping grant!

The Legion will again host Great Lakes Navy recruits on Thanksgiving Day.

The Legion is making a special effort to welcome as possible members and customers the anticipated residents of new townhomes to be built near the Legion property.

c) **VFW:**

Dave Gass reported on their current activities and noted that they have also received grant funds from Home Depot. He continues with efforts to get Post members to join in our Elmhurst activities.

d) **American Legion Auxiliary:**

Rosemary Draine reported that she is no longer Auxiliary President. Peggy Kriac now holds office of President as well as Post 1st Vice Commander and Corporation President. The Auxiliary co-sponsored on September 12, a 9-11 Remembrance program at Elmhurst College working with Veteran Coordinator Jacob Hill in an Educational Work Shop with Boy Scout Troop 78, Elmhurst Fire Station No 2, and Elmhurst Police.

e) **VFW Auxiliary:**

Marie Weibler, absent, no report.

f) **Clergy:**

Rev. Stanley Harding had no formal report, however he suggested that we hand out invitations at the Memorial Day Parade to promote memberships at both the American legion and VFW as members are needed. Ralph concurred and said we could have scout units hand out the flyers to Veterans identified along the Parade route.

g) **Park District:**

Mike Monell said he is pleased to join our Commission. He has confirmed our standing

arrangement for the Wilder Mansion to be available for our Veterans Day observance if the weather requires it. He also was given a flag pole key from Ralph, as Mike will be the Park representative who will see that our U.S. Flag is lowered to half staff when declared by the President or Governor as previously requested and agreed to.

h) **School District:**

Paul Tilton thanked Ralph for his thank you letters to York Key Club members who helped set up the Patriots Care U.S Flag display for Memorial Day. He noted that Bill Shanklin quietly made a generous donation to the Key Club as a thank you.

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

Ralph Pechanio, the organizer and co-chairman, reported that the weather was beautiful, the crowds were large and enthusiastic both on the Parade route, and at the Post-Parade program at the Veterans Memorial. All went well thanks to participants, volunteers, spectators, and support from the City and Park District. Ralph led a discussion with the commission members regarding two email complaints received by the Elmhurst Chamber about the appearance of Civil War re-enactment units that carry both the American and Confederate flags. These units have participated in our Memorial Day observance for at least twenty-five years. Ralph responded to these emails by providing the historical significance of Memorial Day, formerly known as Decoration Day, with its Civil War origin. Current national discussions dictate that we determine if it is appropriate for us to have Civil War re-enactors and the historical display of the Confederate Flag alongside the Stars and Stripes. After hearing from all of the Commissioners present it was decided to take this matter under informal consideration with the advice of the Elmhurst City Administration, including elected officials, and the Elmhurst Park District Superintendent. We will discuss this question in October and going forward as a decision isn't necessary until we are closer to Memorial Day.

6) **Plans for Veterans Day Activities – Saturday, November 11, 2017**

Ralph reminded the members that our service to be held at 10:30 am at the Memorial will feature the retirement of the flag raised to honor deceased Army, Vietnam Veteran Larry D. Boyds and then turned the discussion over to Bill Shanklin for his plans. Bill reported that he will have the specifics of our program available at our October meeting and speakers from the Elmhurst College student body will be featured. York High musicians will again be coordinated by Paul Tilton.

Mike Monell said he will supervise our required set up and will review details with us at our October meeting.

7) **Other Business**

None

8) **Public Comment**

None

9) **Next Meeting Date**

The next commission meeting will be held on Thursday, 7pm, October 26, 2017.

9) **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Mark Mulliner, seconded by Dave Gass. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Submitted by Rosemary L. Draine, Secretary