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MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY, May 24, 2018
7:00 P.M.
VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMISSION

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

Commission Members Absent: David Gass

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 April 26, 2018

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

3) Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mulliner reports a balance of \$2,214.23 as of May 24, 2018. Motion to accept Treasurer's report by Rev. Harding, seconded by Mike Monell. Approved by unanimous vote

4) Reports from Commission Members

a) Administration:

Ralph Pechanio advised the members that he hasn't received any applications to honor deceased veterans for our 2018 Summer Honor Roll program. A discussion followed and it was agreed that we should use our Memorial Day Post Parade Service to remind the audience of the opportunity to honor a deceased veteran in June, July, or August.

Bill Shanklin presented a check to Ralph for our Veterans Memorial Fund from the American Legion cash collection helmet. Ralph thanked bill and said the receipts are timely as he has just ordered two complete sets of U.S, Service, and POW flags from the City of Elmhurst supply store.

b) American Legion:

Bill Shanklin reported that the 1st quarter of this year was improved financially due to most successful fish fries. The Post continues to struggle and they are reviewing their

Hall's banquet program and the prices charged in their restaurant. They are still hoping to resolve issues related to the City's promised and budgeted 2018 grant of \$30,000.

On an optimistic note, Bill provided news of pending state of Illinois legislation that would grant VFW and American Legion Operations a full exemption from local restrictions on conducting video gaming. Passing this legislation would overcome the City of Elmhurst's denial of Video gaming for the Legion. Bill would expect gaming revenue of more than \$100,000 per year, and thus controversial grant program could be eliminated. Ralph added that since sports gaming has been approved by a U.S. Supreme Court ruling to be administered by the states, we could also then take advantage of this even more lucrative opportunity.

c) **V.F.W.:**

David Gass absent. No report

d) **American Legion Auxiliary:**

Rosemary Draine opened her report by reminding us that today is Poppy Day in Elmhurst. As Chairman she is responsible for this event, collection volunteers are fewer, however mail contributions should make collections satisfactory. The Auxiliary has obtained permission from the Park District to sell Poppies at the Post Parade Veterans Memorial Service.

The Memorial Day Honor Roll Board has been prepared and Bud Jason has put it in place.

Auxiliary members and Veterans will ride in the City's Explore Elmhurst trolley that will make a pick up at the Legion to ride in the parade.

e) **V.F.W Auxiliary: :**

Position vacant, no report.

f) **Clergy:**

Rev. Harding reported on Immanuel Lutheran's pre-Memorial Day Service conducted on Wednesday, May 23rd with about 230 in attendance. VFW Post 2801 provided a rifle team volley. A Navy chaplain conducted the program and talked with students about Memorial Day. Lunch was served following the service.

g) **Park District:**

Mike Monell commented on the unavailability of the Parks old Band Wagon that in the past served as our Parade Day reviewing stand. As previously discussed, a rental reviewing stand will be provided this year. He will discuss plans to provide a future band stand when progress takes place.

h) **School District:**

Paul Tilton updated the members on today's activities by True Patriots Care and

volunteers to set up their 1600 U.S Flag display for Memorial Day Weekend. Paul complimented the York High Elmhurst Kiwanis Key Club members on their help. They will also help take down the flags on Tuesday.

5) **Plans for Memorial Day Activities of Monday, May 28, 2018**

Ralph, as co-chairman distributed the four color printed program. He quickly reviewed the various sections and provided comments on the parade line-up center section. A discussion followed.

Bill Shanklin who runs the post parade military service had no specific comments on the outline, however he said everything is in place for a fine service.

Ralph gave Bill the honorariums on expense reimbursements for those who are paid for their participation: Spirito! Men, Brian Costello, and York High musicians.

Arrangements have been made for the Lima Lima Flight Team to do aerial stunts over the parade route.

Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity members will be assisting at the Memorial, in the parade, and collecting parade id's and banners as units finish the parade. They also helped set up our Arlington style cross display on Thursday, and will help take down the display on Tuesday. The committee acknowledged their contribution.

Rev. Harding discussed his closing Benediction and wanted to clarify that our request for a prayer of remembrance of our war dead didn't really fit a benediction. A discussion followed and the members expressed their confidence in his oratorical talents to provide both.

Finally, Mike Monell distributed the Park's usual schematic on the Memorial's required set up . Mike was thanked for all he and the park do to make the program a success.

6) **Other Business**

None

7) **Public Comment**

None

8) **Next Meeting Date**

The next commission meeting will be held on Thursday, 7pm, September 27, 2018.

9) **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Bill Shanklin, seconded by Mark Mulliner. The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Submitted by Rosemary L. Draine, Secretary