



**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, March 22, 2018**  
**7:00 P.M.**  
**VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMISSION**

Commission Members Present: Ralph Pechanio, Dave Gass, Bill Shanklin, Rev. Stan Harding, Mike Monell and Rosemary Drain

Commission Members Absent: Mark Mulliner and Paul Tilton

Guests Present: None

**1) Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pechanio at 7:12 p.m.

**2) Review Minutes of October 26, 2017**

Motion to approve was made by David Gass, seconded by Rev. Stan Harding. Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

**3) Treasurer's Report**

In the absence of Treasurer Mark Mulliner, Ralph Pechanio reports a balance of \$2,120.07 as of March 15, 2018. Motion to accept Treasurer's Report by Bill Shanklin seconded by Bill Shanklin, seconded by Rev. Stan Harding. Approved by unanimous vote. Ralph also reported on significant donations of \$250 from James Cooper and Jennifer Veremis of The Beauty Lounge. Copies of the thank you letters were distributed.

**4) Reports from Commission Members**

**a) Administration:**

Ralph opened his report acknowledging the long time contribution to the Veterans Commission by Marie Wiebler who died unexpectedly on January 23rd. She will be missed by everyone who was fortunate to know her. Ralph also reported on the passing of 99 year old, WWII veteran Marvin H. Mischnick who died February 24. Marvin was a long time member of our military contingent featured in the Elmhurst Memorial Day Parade. He was a highly decorated member of the Army and we will recognize his passing on Memorial Day. Regarding honoring Marie, Dave Gass said he would like to present a suitable award to Marie's husband at our Memorial Day service. The Commission members agreed and Ralph will order a plaque from Viking Awards to be presented by Dave ahead of our reading of the names of currently deceased Veterans.

The City hosted their first event for the members of their 17 Commissions on March 1. It was a great event and they announced the Darrell Whistler Service award in recognition of Darrell's nearly 50 years serving on the Planning and Zoning Commission. The first annual award was presented to Phillip Jordan, a well-deserved honor. Phil served as Treasurer on our Veterans Commission from its beginning in 1993 till 2001.

The City has produced name tags for each of its Commission members identifying each designated commission. Ralph distributed the remaining tags to members who didn't receive them from him at the March 1<sup>st</sup> event.

Regarding our 2018 honor roll program Ralph said he has two interested sponsors of deceased veterans, but no dates have been assigned to date. He does expect that friends of Marvin Mischnick will come forward to honor him. Rev. Stan Harding asked if it was alright to approach the various churches in Elmhurst about our program as he has been reluctant to do so as the Legion Honor Guard has been short of members. Bill Shanklin, who supervises the Honor Guard said that he has registered other volunteers and Rev. Harding was free to promote our Sunday program.

Lastly, Ralph informed the members about the Elmhurst Chambers production of its Elmopoly (customized Monopoly game for Elmhurst) promotion. He has personally sponsored a property on the playing board for the Elmhurst Veterans Memorial and a "Jeep" playing piece to raise awareness of our beautiful Memorial in Wilder Park. The Chamber will be selling games to the public by June at a cost of only \$25. Demand should be great as evidenced by production sales were completed within just 2 weeks.

b) **American Legion:**

Bill Shanklin began his report noting that next year will be the Post's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Celebration plans will be forthcoming. Bill reported on their participation in our Elmhurst St. Patrick's Day Parade as the Grand Marshal organization. The Annual Military Ball will be held on November 3 at the remodeled hall. They will be hosting Great Lakes recruits on Thanksgiving Day. The Legion is working with the City to secure its annual grant of \$30,000 as finances continue to be difficult.

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

Dave Gass said the Post continues to do well financially with video Gaming and their pistol range. He keeps trying to get eligible Elmhurst members. The Auxiliary will certainly miss Marie Weibler.

d) **American Legion Auxiliary:**

Rosemary Drain presented a written report on the current status of the Auxiliary which follows: By volunteering and by making cash donations we continue to support American Legion Projects: Nov 11 – Military Ball (Decoration Committee), Veterans Day Service, Thanksgiving Great Lakes recruits (\$500), Children of Veterans Christmas Party (\$250),

Packages Abroad (32 boxes in January – donations from community, postage we pay) We have 2 Gold Star Mothers we support thru the year; we donated \$11,000 from our 2017 Poppy Fund: Honor Flight- \$5,000, American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund \$5,000, Capt Jas Lovell Health Center \$1,000. Weekly bingo and weekly fish fry; dessert bar and basket raffle; We donated \$2,000 to The Legion toward a new furnace; we have 150 members – this year Rosemary Draine is the Elmhurst Chair of the National Poppy Day – Thursday May 24, 2018 and will also collect for Poppies at Wilder Park on Memorial Day; This year Elmhurst is celebrating 95 years as chartered auxiliary. We are working on our annual scholarships – historically we give up to 4 college scholarships annually. We reserved 4 spaces for “Girls State” (High School Juniors – 1 week – Americanism, Patriotism, Democracy/Gov’t) Honor Flight and accompanying funeral processions & welcoming Vets Home – American Legion Riders. We lost 2 past presidents (Sally Duple & Patsy Hucksold). Sally remembered us in her will and we received memorial donations – we have established an annual Sally Duple Memorial Scholarship. And we lost a member and friend, Marie Weibler

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

Position vacant, no report.

f) **Clergy:**

Rev. Stanley Harding passed as he made his comments under the Administrative report by Ralph.

g) **Park District:**

Mike Monell deferred to Memorial Day discussion.

h) **School District:**

Absent, no report.

5) **Review of Veterans Day Activities of Saturday, November 11, 2017**

Ralph presented his views on another great event. The weather was suitable for our outdoor service. Jerry Christopherson of True Patriots Care set up over 100 flags around our Memorial property circle with the cooperation of volunteers and the Elmhurst Park District. We probably had the longest crowd for a Veterans Day program. Bill Shanklin said he encountered some operating problems with the service but he agreed that all in all the service was a success. Bill continues to try his best to make the program even better. Ralph complimented Bill on his efforts.

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

Ralph, who co-chairs the Memorial Day Parade activities with John Quigley of the Chamber of Commerce, distributed a preliminary draft of the Parade Line-up for discussion. Ralph pointed out some changes at the start of the Parade, the lead unit will be the York High School Marching Dukes as they are celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Parade. The Parade will feature a flyover of the route by two Lima Lima planes. It is hoped that we will have 100

Parade entries! Our Parade Grand Marshal, Colonel Mark R. Mallon U.S. Army is trying to get us additional "Army" units.

Our Wilder Park Veterans Memorial Weekend will begin on Thursday, May 24 with the traditional set up of our "Arlington" type crosses. Also, True Patriots Care who set up 350 U.S. Flags last year will be featuring their 1,620 Vietnam MIA/POW U.S Flag display. The flags and crosses will be taken down on Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>.

Bill Shanklin provided an update on the plans for the Post Parade service at the Memorial. He will have a program for us next month. He is recruiting Lori Tompos, a U.S. Army West Point graduate and veteran of the Persian Gulf War to assist him. The Elmhurst Police and Fire will be providing their Rifle Squad. John Quigley will again read the names of deceased veterans as provided by the Legion, VFW and our local funeral homes. Marie Weibler will be remembered as previously discussed.

7) **Other Business**

Rosemary asked Dave Gass about future assistance with the set-up of our Honor Roll Boards with Marie's passing. Dave responded he will be glad to help as needed until he can recruit a new representative from the VFW Auxiliary.

8) **Public Comment**

None

9) **Next Meeting Date**

The next commission meeting will be held on Thursday, 7pm, April 26, 2018.

9) **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Bill Shanklin, seconded by Mike Monell. The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Submitted by Rosemary L. Drain, Secretary