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MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY, September 27, 2018
7:00 P.M.
VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMISSION

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

Commission Members Absent: None

Guests Present: None

1) Call to Order

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

2) Review Minutes of May 24, 2018

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

3) Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mulliner reported that he wasn't able to obtain a current financial report as the City's finance director was out of the office. He will obtain a report for our next meeting

4) Reports from Commission Members

a) Administration:

Ralph Pechanio circulated a letter that was received from Marie Weibler's husband Chuck thanking the Commission for the "Always Remember" plaque that was presented to him on Memorial Day in Marie's memory.

Ralph also circulated a copy of Rosemary Draine's "Certificate of Completion" of her required Open Meeting Act Training that Rosemary provided. A brief discussion followed about the City's follow up training session that was held on September 24.

Ralph reported on our 2018 Honor Roll activities and distributed a copy of our completed schedule that honored three deceased Veterans. Ralph thanked Rosemary Draine for preparing the Honor Roll boards and her particular efforts to obtain military career information on Richard Pickard.

b) **American Legion:**

Bill Shanklin provided an upbeat report on current Legion activities: public events Cool Cars and Legends Concert. Bill noted that the Post received their long awaited City Grant of \$30,000. The Annual Military Ball fundraiser will be held on Saturday, October 27 and next year it will be held on September 26, 2019 to coincide with the Post's 100th Anniversary. The Post is also trying to capitalize on the mania around the "Queen of Hearts" card game as a continuing fundraiser.

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

Dave Gass updated us on their activities and said that Mel Hedden is their new Commander. The Post is doing very well financially and with membership due to their Pistol Range and authorized Villa Park Video Gaming.

d) **American Legion Auxiliary:**

Rosemary Draine informed us that she no longer has an official role with the Auxiliary. She provided the following list of officials: President, Peggy Krihak; 1st V.P Patricia Nacyk; 2nd V.P, Donna Fischer; Treasurer, Cher Smith-Conrad; Secretary, Patricia Nacyk; Chaplain, Rene Trajkovich; and Secretary of Arms, Judy Keinz.

Rosemary said she will continue as a regional representative.

Regarding her duties for the Commission in preparing the Honor Roll boards she has followed the example set by Marie Weibler and has been provided assistance by Legion members in putting the boards in place at the Memorial. She has enjoyed the process of attending the services. She noted that we haven't provided any seating at the Memorial for attending the services and asked if the Park District could provide seating. A discussion followed: Ralph said he would note in his cover letter to those arranging Honor Roll Services that they are welcome to bring lawn chairs and it was also agreed that the Park District (Mike Monell) would be copied on Correspondence so that they could provide chairs.

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

Position vacant, no report. However Dave Gass of the VFW reported that he will continue attempts to have new Commander and VFW Auxiliary President Virginia Profitt recruit a replacement for Marie Weibler.

f) **Clergy:**

Rev. Harding asked, as was his prior intention, if he should send out information about our program to honor deceased veterans to the various Elmhurst Churches. Bill Shanklin said the Honor Guards are not staffed to meet such a potential demand for Weekly services. A discussion followed that restated previous discussions on the problem of limited volunteers to conduct services. It was agreed that we have to come up with a long term solution. Possibilities include reaching out to Scouting groups and other

veterans organizations such as College ROTC Units.

g) **Park District:**

Mike Monell informed the members that the Park's mobile band shell is being retired. The park will provide a reviewing stand for Memorial Day as they did this past year. Mike reiterated that he will coordinate temporary seating for our Sunday services as needed and requested

h) **School District:**

Paul Tilton said he will coordinate with Jerry Christopherson of York High School for the True Patriots Care set up of flags ringing the Veterans Memorial on Veterans Day and for help from the Key Club in setting up and taking down the display.

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

Ralph as co-chairman of the Parade provided a description of the day. First of all we had near record temperatures of 100 degrees. Parade was conducted as planned without interruptions. (Ralph noted that Naperville Cancelled their Parade.) Fly over by Lima Lima flight team was a highlight. Only a few entries didn't show up and the heat didn't detract from participation or record attendance. Ralph discussed several controversies that were brought to his attention and he will take these items into consideration in planning for 2019. Ralph turned over the discussion to Bill Shanklin as Post Parade Military coordinator. Bill said he will make some changes in the order of events to accommodate the Police and Fire Honor Guards and will highlight the Legion's 100th Anniversary.

6) **Plans for Veterans Day Activities of Sunday, November 11, 2018**

Ralph asked Bill to give an update on the planning process for Veterans Day, particularly as the observance falls on a Sunday. Bill responded that he will have a completed program for us at our next meeting and that he will be making some adjustments to speed the program up. The 100th Anniversary of Armistice Day, the end of World War I will be featured.

Mike Monell informed the members that the Wilder Mansion will not be available as a back up in case of bad weather, however he is making arrangements for indoor accommodations at nearby Elmhurst College. He will give us the exact location as soon as it is determined.

Bil noted that the College will be hosting a concert following our service in Hammershmidt Chapel.

Mike Monell provided the Memorial setup to Bill for his use.

7) **Other Business**

None

8) **Public Comment**

None

9) **Next Meeting Date**

The next commission meeting will be held on Thursday, 7pm, October 25, 2018.

9) **Adjournment**

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

Submitted by Rosemary L. Draine, Secretary