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MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY, May 23, 2019
7:00 P.M.
VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMISSION

DRAFT

Commission Members Present: Ralph Pechanio, Bill Shanklin, Mike Monell, Paul Tilton, and Alderman Mark Mulliner

Commission Members Absent: Rev. Stanley Harding

Guests Present: None

1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pechanio at 7:05 p.m.

2) Review Minutes of April 25, 2019

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

3) Treasurer's Report

Treasurer reports a balance of \$2,865.85 as of May 22, 2019.
Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report by Paul Tilton, seconded by Bill Shanklin. Approved by unanimous vote.

4) Reports from Commission Members

a) Administration:

Chairman Ralph Pechanio reported that we will be honoring deceased Veteran Captain Scott T. Corwin on Sunday, June 2 as requested by his sister Allison Corwin. Ralph and Bill Shanklin have reviewed the June 2 and June 9 retirement service with Honor Guard member, Commander John Scudder and his team. Bill will be in Europe for a D Day Commemoration and will not return until after June 9. We should be well prepared for the ceremonies. No other services are planned as of now.

Ralph followed up on the subject of Dave Gass's resignation last month as our lone remaining VFW representative. As has been discussed the surviving Villa Park Post has never taken an interest in the Commission except for our past Elmhurst VFW members who are now gone. Ralph requested City Manager Jim Grabowski to reduce our

commission from nine to seven, cancelling the membership of the Villa Park VFW Post.

Lastly Ralph updated the members on the status of our vacant American Legion Auxiliary position. Ralph circulated a letter that he sent to Auxiliary President Peggy Krihak, requesting the nomination of a member to fill the position. Ralph had several phone conversations stressing the importance of filling this vacancy, but to no avail. Ralph said he has discussed the matter with the Legion Commander John Scudder and our member Bill Shanklin, particularly the need of someone putting together our Honor Roll messages at the Memorial. They have come up with a short term solution and will ask the Auxiliary Members who are all up in years to solicit one of their daughters for the position. Hopefully this will work.

b) **American Legion:**

Bill Shanklin reported that the Legion hosted a 100th Anniversary event held on Saturday, May 18. The event netted approximately \$2,600. This precedes the formal Military Ball to be held September 27 with the special activities. Plans are proceeding to build on the two prior Military Balls.

The Post hosted a medical educational event by the Hines Veterans hospital presenting information to Edwards-Elmhurst Hospital on treatment of veterans' needs. The initial symposium will be followed by other meetings. A PTSD movie production featuring veterans' issues is being considered which would require funding of some \$33,000. More information will follow.

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

Position to be eliminated.

d) **American Legion Auxiliary:**

No report as position is vacant.

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

Position to be eliminated.

f) **Clergy:**

Rev. Harding absent. No report.

g) **Park District:**

Ralph thanked Mike Monell for assisting the Parade Committee by arranging for the placement of our two Memorial Day signs on Palmer Drive as we didn't make arrangements for this year as we were assured that the Underpass Electronic sign would be in place.

h) **School District:**

Paul Tilton informed the members that he has confirmed that our retiring member Dave

Gass of the VFW will be present at the Veterans Memorial Service. Ralph has a surprise presentation for Dave.

5) **Plans for Memorial Day Activities of Monday, May 27, 2019**

Ralph distributed the four color program produced for the 101st Elmhurst Memorial Day Parade to be held on Monday, May 27. A brief discussion followed a review of the various components of the program. Ralph and Bill assured the members that all the marching orders have been conveyed to both our participants and volunteers, including Police and Fire Departments for assembly, the Parade, and the Veterans Service following the Parade.

The Park District and all the others involved in set up and organization are ready as usual.

The "Arlington" Crosses have been set up along with the True Patriots Care U.S Flag display at the Memorial and on the grounds east of Wilder Mansion. Arrangements have been made for Wilder Mansion to be available for rest rooms and for conducting the Post Parade Military Service in case of extremely bad weather. The cross display and the flags will be taken down on Tuesday, May 28.

6) **Other Business**

Mark Mulliner reminded us that the American Legion will be hosting Cars Under the Stars and Stripes. Held each Thursday beginning May 30.

7) **Public Comment**

None. No guests present.

8) **Next Meeting Date**

The next commission meeting will be held on Thursday, 7pm, September 26, 2019.

9) **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Mike Monell, seconded by Bill Shanklin. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Submitted by Ralph Pechanio, Chairman