

Veterans, Ceremony, and Parade Commission Regular Meeting

Fowler Memorial Building

45 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT

Monday, August 8, 2011

Call to Order: Chairman Kates called the meeting to order at 1907 hours. A quorum was present. All present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Roll Call

Commissioners William Kates, Christopher Roberts, Thomas Flowers, Timothy Mead, and Ellenor Olson. Also present were Alderman Bill Bevan, Bob Gregory, John D'Amico, Lee D'Amico, and Eric Muth.

2. Consideration of Minutes

Commissioners Mead and Flowers made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the July 11, 2011, regular meeting as posted. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Public Comments/Questions

Mr. Muth presented the Chairman with photos and drawings from the museum for the archives.

Mr. Muth commented that he noticed the City of Milford website says that the Veterans Grave Commission term expires at the end of 2011. He suggested the possibility of combining that commission with the VCPC.

Mr. Muth informed all present that he contacted Senator Blumenthal's office to explore the possibility of having cannon placed in the front of the Fowler Memorial Building. He explained that both the Mayor and Public Works need to approve the cannon.

Mr. Muth also explained that he checks the mail for the Fowler Memorial Building weekly, and has noticed that the sign out in front does not have the proper names of tenants of the building listed. He also noted that the offices in the building should be numbered, along with changing the locks on the building and distributing new keys.

Mr. Muth commented that the Milford High Auditorium at Parson's Complex had been named the Veterans' Auditorium some years ago, but the signage has yet to be changed to reflect that.

Mr. Muth suggested moving some of the items from the Johnson Museum to Milford Library for display.

4. Old Business

a. New Building Request Form

Chairman Kates passed out to the Commissioners the new building request form that was drafted by Vice-Chair Smith. Ms. D'Amico informed the Chairman that the

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clauses “hold harmless” and “proof of insurance” need to be included on the form before it is notarized and turned in for approval.

Discussion was held by all present regarding the need for a Veterans Service Office. Mr. Gregory, who is the Milford Community and Economic Development Director, offered to hold the building request forms in his office at the Parson’s Complex. He also offered to act as the conduit to refer veterans to other services that will be of direct help to them.

b. Parking/Building Maintenance Use

Chairman Kates said he had spoken with Mr. Kolwicz of Milford Public Works about the parking and building maintenance issues. The Chairman believes the parking issue is not of high priority at the moment. Commissioner Roberts suggested adding two handicapped parking spaces to the Fowler parking lot.

Commissioner Flowers commented that the building maintenance should take priority over everything else. The Commissioners discussed speaking with all the tenants of the building to compile a new list of maintenance issues to be forwarded to Public Works.

c. Oyster Festival

Chairman Kates informed the Commissioners that he met with Alderwoman Paula Smith of the Milford Oyster Festival Committee to discuss their use of the Fowler Building during the Oyster Festival. She assured the Chairman that no tenant of the building will be denied access to their office during the festival.

The Chairman said the Oyster Festival Committee will be using the main floor room during the festival, and the Police Department will be using the basement. The Chairman also stated that he would be present the entire day of the festival at the Fowler Building.

5. New Business

a. Request Use of Building Oct. 16th

The Chairman informed the Commissioners he had received a request from Maria Tomasetti to use the basement of the Fowler Memorial Building on October 16th for the walk for the benefit of the Beth-El Center. He said he would forward her a new request form, but he had already granted her request for use of the building.

b. 9/11 Memorial Service

Chairman Kates informed the Commissioners that the City of Milford is planning a memorial service honoring the 10th anniversary of 9/11. He said he believed the ceremony starts at 5:00 pm. He outlined the ceremony for all present. Mr. Gregory invited any military guard to participate. Commissioner Mead said he would discuss this with the veterans groups.

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Chairman Kates opened the floor for discussion regarding Mr. Muth's suggestions and comments.

Commissioner Mead commented that if a cannon was placed on the site, there might be insurance issues. Mr. Gregory added that Platt Technical School had recently restored a cannon that might be placed in front of Milford Library. Commissioner Olson suggested renting military material through the Johnson Museum from local military bases because the use of the material would be both historical and educational. The Chairman suggested staying away from the whole issue because the main issue of the Commission is to run and maintain the building. The Commission decided to table the cannon issue to a future date.

The Chairman commented that numbering the offices in the building is a good idea. The Commissioners discussed the pros and cons of combining the Veterans Graves Commission and the VCPC; they decided to have table the issue and discuss it further at a later date.

6. Announcements/ Good of the Group Info.

Commissioner Mead informed the Commissioners that VFW 778 would be holding a memorial service on 9/11 at noon. On September 16th, the VFW would be holding their third annual POW/MIA remembrance ceremony. August 14th is the VFW Sunday brunch help in the upstairs hall; \$10 for all-you-can-eat, with tickets available at the door.

7. Adjournment

Commissioners Mead and Roberts made and seconded a motion to adjourn at 2021 hours. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by C. Birney