

VETERANS, CEREMONY AND PARADE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 8, 2014 (AMENDED 10-13-14)

The Veterans, Ceremony and Parade Commission held their Regular Meeting on Monday, September 8, 2014 in the Fowler Memorial Building, 45 New Haven Avenue, Milford. Chairman T. Flowers called the meeting to order at 7:03PM and asked those present to stand for the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. Roll Call

MEMBERS PRESENT

Thomas Flowers, Chairman
Christine Smith, Vice Chairman
Christopher Roberts
Gregory Smith
Russell Edwards
Pattie Deer
John Jansen

GUESTS PRESENT

William Kates
Eric Muth
Joe Viscount
Richard Shea

II. Public Comments/Questions

- a) Building Usage - Request by Richard Shea, on behalf of Reuben James Post 245 Catholic War Veterans, to use the Fowler Building once a month. Documentation submitted and accepted by VCPC. Logistics (key, security code, etc.) to be finalized.
- b) Eric Muth Discussion on Hall of Honor in the Veterans Memorial Auditorium
 - a. Name change of Hall requested – Military Hall of Honor suggested.
 - b. 31 names have been identified that need to be added to plaques (from WWI through Vietnam); research continues into pre-WWI Veterans.
 - c. Authenticating research and citing website URLs is imperative.
 - d. VCPC has provided the Mayor with its opinion on the entry plaque. As you enter the Hall of Honor, a plaque identifying entrance into the Hall was accepted in concept; some verbiage changes suggested.
 - e. The Commission recommends to the Mayor and Board of Alderman that they consider and approve a motion to bring the WWI through Vietnam plaques up-to-date (Item 1 of Mr. Muth's proposal).
 - f. The Commission recommends to the Mayor and Board of Alderman that they consider and approve a motion to add the names of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice to their respective monuments (Item 3 of Mr. Muth's proposal). Method by which the names are added will be determined at a later date.
 - g. The Commission recommends to the Mayor and Board of Alderman that they consider and approve a motion that the recently rededicated Nike Site be placed on the State and National Register of Historic Places (Item 4 of Mr. Muth's proposal).

III. Consideration of Minutes

Motion by C. Roberts to accept the minutes from August 11, 2014 as distributed; seconded by C. Smith. All in favor; motion carried.

IV. Chairman's Report

- a) Revision to Tax Exemption for Veterans in the City of Milford – VCPC supported the ordinance as written, however, wants to go on record that VCPC would like the means testing imposed by the State of Connecticut eliminated.

- b) Veterans Monuments – VCPC, in coordination with the Department of Public Works, has oversight authority for all of the Veterans monuments in the City of Milford.
- c) Fund for Veterans Memorial Auditorium – a separate fund created with money donated by private citizens. T. Flowers asked the Mayor to have the name of the account changed, so Veterans monuments are also included. City Attorney to review request.

V. Unfinished Business

- a) Facebook – G. Smith working on a VCPC Facebook page. Event page expected to go live by October 1, 2014.
- b) Veterans Day Parade / Activities
 - i. The 375th Committee has issued a tentative schedule of activities for Saturday, November 8, 2014. Members of the VCPC have offered to volunteer at the reading of names of living City of Milford Veterans, who are being honored. The logistics of collecting / disseminating items for Veterans in need – and how to identify them - was discussed. T. Flowers to clarify with 375th and advise.
 - ii. R. Edwards has agreed to be Grand Marshal at the Veterans Day Parade. A guest speaker needs to be determined. T. Flowers to contact Elizabeth Walsh, Commander at DAV Chapter #15, to gauge her interest and/or see who she would recommend.
 - iii. C. Smith obtained a list of parade participants from the 375th Committee. 232 contacts, including schools, dignitaries, etc. received.
- c) Access to Veterans Memorial Auditorium – Motion by G. Smith to table this item; motion seconded by C. Smith. All in favor; motion carried.

VI. Announcements / Good of the Order

- a) On November 11, 2014 at 11AM, the VFW and Progressive will be giving away two cars (one to an Iraq Army Veteran; one to an Iraq Marine Veteran). Attendance is expected to be minimal, as the timing conflicts with VCPC Veterans Day events.
- b) The condition of the building following the Oyster Festival was poor. There was garbage left behind, multiple generators inside, parking lot littered with broken bottles and trash. T. Flowers to investigate security measures around the complex.
- c) Clock remains broken on the second floor.
- d) On October 4, 2014, the VFW is having a summer pig roast picnic, in honor of Paul Liscinsky, from 11AM-6PM. Tickets are \$20.

VII. Possible Agenda Topics

- a) Eric Muth has been invited to the October meeting to further discuss the Veterans Memorial Auditorium.
- b) Finalize plans for November 8, 2014 activities with 375th Committee.
- c) Finalize plans for November 9, 2014 Veterans Day Parade.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:10PM by C. Roberts; seconded by G. Smith.

Next meeting will be held on October 13, 2014 at 7PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Durner
Recording Secretary