**Veterans, Ceremony and Parade Commission Regular Meeting**

**March 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

**Opening:** The Veterans, Ceremony and Parade Commission held their Regular Meeting on Monday March 8, 2021 in the Fowler Memorial Building, 45 New Haven Avenue, Tom Flowers called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and asked those present to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call**:

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Tom Flowers - Chairman

Mike Kupson

Vincent Zelinsky

Pattie Deer

Emily Sopchak

**ABSENT/EXCUSED**:

John (Jack) Jansen

**GUESTS**:

Wayne Carson

Diane Zelinsky –recording secretary -– VIA Teleconference

**Agenda**: Open Agenda

**Consideration of Minutes** –Motion was made by Pattie Deer and 2nd by Vinny Zelinsky to accept the minutes from the January 11, 2021 meeting. There was no February 20201 meeting held

**A quorum was present for tonight’s meeting.**

**Old Business:**

Tom Flowers indicated that the there is still a need for a Vice Chair of the VCPC. He also asked that some corrections be forwarded the City Clerk’s office for the VCPC members listed on the webpage this will be sent by the Recording Secretary when the minutes are sent from this meeting.

Emily Sopchak needs to be changed from Member Citizen to Member - VFW, Vincent Zelinsky needs to be changed from Member - VFW to Member - CVMA (Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association)

**New Business**

Tom has been in contact with the Mayor’s Chief of Staff Justin Rosen and Director of Health Deepa Joseph regarding the possibility of having the Memorial Day Parade. No determination has been made at this time but all agreed that it could be considered an community outdoor activity and subject to the new guidance that becomes effective on March 19th by Governor Lamont. This could change and Deepa Joseph indicated that there would additional guidance that would be released soon. The VCPC does have permission to hold a parade or a similar live stream ceremony as was held for Veteran’s day 2020. Tom Saadi, DVA Commissioner has accepted the VCPC’s invitation to be the guest speaker for either the parade or City Hall ceremony and a decision should be made by the next meeting on April 12th.

Tom put out a call to the commission for anyone who knows classic car owners with a convertible that might be needed for a parade as Dale Seymour who usually drives the Grand Marshall in his red convertible is currently in Florida. There might be a need for this alternate option.

The Wreath laying ceremonies will be held at 10:00 am on May, 30.2021. Each VSO and civic group that participates will need to procure 5 wreaths to be placed at the individual monuments. Each also has the opportunity to read off the names of those lost in the last 2 years at each monument. Discussion was had regarding local florists in terms of pricing and available delivery services.

Saturday, May 29, 2021 at 8:00 am will the annual placing of flags on the gravesites of Veterans buried at the various city cemeteries. Tom will order the flags and as in the past they will be available for pick up at the Fowler Building the morning of the event.

**For the Good of the Order**:

Tom made mention that Mayor Blake was contacted about a WWII Veteran Raymond G. Badwin who is turning 100 years old. He is a member of VFW Post 7788. He was reported to be heralded with sinking 2 enemy submarines. Tom indicated he turned the information over the current VFD permittee but wanted Emily Sopchak to take back the information as well.

Tom polled the members present what their respective VSOs were doing as far as being open to the public and holding events having membership meetings. Each updated on those activities.

Motion was made to adjourn by Pattie Deere and 2nd by Vinny Zelinsky

**Meeting adjourned at**: 7:55 pm

Respectfully Submitted by

Diane Zelinsky

Recording Secretary