

**VETERANS, CEREMONY, AND
PARADE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 14, 2014**

The Veterans, Ceremony and Parade Commission held their Regular Meeting on Monday, April 14, 2014 in the Fowler Memorial Building, 45 New Haven Avenue, Milford. Chairman T. Flowers called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. 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
Pattie Deer
Russell Edwards
John Jansen
Christopher Roberts
Gregory Smith

Absent/Excused: - None

GUESTS PRESENT

Wayne Carson

II. Consideration of Minutes – March 10, 2014 Minutes were read, motion made by R. Edwards that the minutes be accepted as read, seconded by P. Deer, motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment/Questions – None.

IV. Chairman's Report:

a) Parades/Ceremonies

Chairman Flowers sent the final parade details to Milford Living Magazine.

b) Building Maintenance

Per Chairman Flowers, Public Works delivered the table and chairs to the Fowler Bldg.

c) Building Usage

- i. C. Smith still needs to update the Fowler Building Form.
- ii. Milford Harbor Duck Race group want to use the building (lower floor) again to store their ducks from May 1st to May 4th, 2014 for the May 4th race; issue with meeting conflicts as, the AA meeting will be going on at 9:00am on Sunday morning, May 4th in the lower hall. Tom will try to contact them to reschedule or cancel their meeting.
- iii. Milford Fife & Drum Volunteers would like to put a Membership Drive Banner in the front of the building. Mr. Smith makes a motion to allow them to do so, seconded by Mr. Jansen, motion passed unanimously.
- iv. Ms. Deer noted that the U.S. Flag normally in the downstairs hall is missing (the stand is still there). This needs to be found.

- v. Mr. Smith got a request from VFW Commander Jay Murray to set-up a table on the Fowler Building grounds for the Oyster Festival, which was approved.

V. Unfinished Business

- a) Chairman Flowers spoke to the Mayor and Kathy Huber who is in charge of the official Secretarial Pool for Milford about a recording secretary, but there are no volunteers.
- b) Chairman Flowers stated that the current budget for VCPC remains unchanged by the city.
- c) Memorial Day Events
 - i. Former VCPC Chairman W. Kates will be providing the script for the parade.
 - ii. Chairman Flowers and Betsy Walsh went to the Hamden Veterans Commission meeting and spoke with Chairman Abner Oaks about the flags they order. They purchase them from American Legion Sales for 45 cents a flag. Chairman Flowers to order 35 gross flags from the same company. Extras not used can be handed out to kids during the parade.
 - iii. Advertisement:
 - 1. Mayor's office emails dignitaries about events, but will no longer be sending out organizational invites.
 - 2. C. Smith to send another Press Release to the press and will update the organizational invite letters (without specific salutation) and send them out.

VI. New Business

- a) Johnson Museum
 - i. A representative from the Stratford Aerospace Museum inspected the museum items and wrote a report and proposal which were submitted to the Mayor.
 - ii. Chairman Flowers and Mayor Blake went to the West Haven Military Museum to view their set up. The curator of the museum will be visiting the Fowler Bldg. Friday, April 18th at 10am to see what museum items we have.
- b) Parson's Complex Auditorium renamed to "Veterans Memorial Auditorium"
 - i. Chairman Flowers got a bid of \$1,755 for a sign. He also contacted Bowman Signs for a bid for an in the ground sign which would be consistent with the current signs around the Parson's complex.
 - ii. Mayor Blake suggested a sign that was similar to the one at the Fowler Building
 - iii. Mr. Roberts will take a picture of the sign at the new Firehouse to illustrate
- b) Viscount Initiatives
 - i. Chairman Flowers and committee discussed the various entries and found a few to have some merit; it was the opinion that the proposed change to the city ordinance, although noble and well-intentioned, could not be supported as written. This opinion will also be communicated to the Mayor, even though we do not have any authority over any proposed changes.

VII. Good of the Order

- a) The VCPC should advertise our monthly meetings.
- b) Chairman Flowers to invite the new head of Public Works Department to our meeting.
- c) Chairman Flowers attended a Board of Alderman Meeting and briefed them on the basic tasks the VCPC handles for our patriotic events.
- d) Mr. Smith states that we should set our next meeting's agenda at every meeting, so we can manage the number of topics being discussed.
- e) Bill Donahue is very ill. The Disabled American Vets Chapter 15 will be renamed for him.
- f) VFW 7788 will be hosting their Annual Day for a Hospitalized Veteran on 4/27/2014. They still need donations to fill their goodie-bags. Set-up will be on 4/26/2014.
- g) VVA will be hosting a Poppy Drive at Shop Rite on 5/17/2014 from 9am to 5pm.

- VIII. Possible Agenda Topics
- a) Memorial Day Parade
 - b) VCPC Ordinance
 - c) Tax Exemption
 - d) Museum
 - e) Flag Pole

- IX. Announcements
- a) No Report.

Being no further business to discuss, Mrs. Smith made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Deer. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:06pm.

Next meeting will be May 12, 2014 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine L. Smith
Secretary Pro Tem