

**VETERANS, CEREMONY, AND
PARADE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 12, 2011**

The Veterans, Ceremony and Parade Commission held their Regular Meeting on Monday, December 12, 2011 in the Fowler Memorial Building, 45 New Haven Avenue, Milford. Chairman W. Kates called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m. and asked those present to stand for the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. Roll Call

MEMBERS PRESENT

William Kates, Chairman
Christine Smith, Vice Chairman
Ellenor Olson

ALSO PRESENT

Robert Gregory, Community Development

Absent/Excused: Thomas Flowers, Russell Edwards, Tim Mead, Christopher Roberts

Chairman Kates noted a quorum was *not present*; therefore the Commission could not take any action. He asked that the secretary record the discussion of tonight's meeting.

II. Consideration of Minutes

Chairman Kates read the minutes from the November 17, 2011 meeting, with the following corrections being made by Chairman Kates and Vice Chairman Smith:

- p. 2, 8th paragraph from the top, add number 9, to read 'item numbers 7, 8 & **9**'.
- p. 2, last paragraph on the bottom, add the word "be" to read 'and would **be** instrumental'.
- p. 3, 4th paragraph from the top, correct spelling of last name of Patty Dear to read '**Deer**'.
- p. 3, 10th paragraph from the top, should read '**election year**', not election day.
- p. 3 11th paragraph from the top, should read '**Mr. Carson**', not Mr. Carlson.
- p. 4, 5th paragraph from the top, 2nd sentence should read '**Vice Chair Smith** received an e-mail from. . . .'
- p. 4, 4th paragraph from the bottom, sentence should read 'Chairman Kates reiterated he was **sad**. . . .
- p.4, 3rd paragraph from the bottom, should read Vice Chairman **Smith**. . .
- p. 5, 1st paragraph should read 'Revolutionary War monument is **now** approachable. . . and add a last sentence to read, '**The walkway was also made more handicap friendly**'.

Chairman Kates stated the Commission would table a vote on the approval of the minutes until the next meeting.

III. Public Comment/Questions

Chairman Kates welcomed Bob Gregory from Community Development. Discussion ensued regarding the recent Veterans Day Parade and the process and past practices of putting together these type of events.

Mr. Gregory stated he would work with Vice Chair Smith these types of events. He stated he recently was unable to provide someone to play taps at a recent event, but that he now has a list of individuals who could play taps at future events. A discussion then took place regarding the use of a musket at parades.

Vice Chairman Smith commented there are a number of new people who may have familiarity with firearms. She stated she would be happy to put out a letter to each of the groups seeking individuals who may have some interest. Discussion ensued.

Chairman Kates suggested this matter be placed on the agenda for January when Mr. Flowers and Mr. Roberts are available for additional input.

Vice Chairman Smith stated one of the reasons she asked Mr. Gregory to be at the meeting was to enlist his help with regard to a list of invitees and press releases.

Mr. Gregory explained he generally sends invites a written invite to the various dignitaries, local and state level and an e-mail to all City employees. He noted there is no bill for invitations for the Veterans Day parade. He stated with regard to who to invite, he stated he has a list of elected persons. He also stated he has a list of the local press members as well and the radio and television stations.

Vice Chairman Smith noted she also saw some publicity for the parade on Milford Patch.

Mr. Gregory explained how notices are sent to a separate address than those for reporting a particular story. Discussion ensued.

Chairman Kates asked Mr. Gregory if he had any knowledge of the Veterans Service Office and asked if they still function out of the Human Services Department. Chairman Kates stated after Joe VonDietch, Wilma Walsh took over, but he was unsure what was happening now. He stated to his knowledge there are no recent veterans and expressed his disappointment the position did not carry on after Ms. Walsh.

Mr. Gregory suggested the Commission take this up with Mayor Blake and that there was a possibility of resurrecting this position. He also stated there are grants available for these types of programs.

Mrs. Olson asked if the Mayor is a veteran. She suggested the idea of creating a list of services that can be provided.

Chairman Kates stated he would add this to his list of items to discuss with Mayor Blake.

IV. Chairman's Report:

a) Parades/Ceremonies – Covered during public comments.
b) Building maintenance – Chairman Kates reported he received information from C. Roberts regarding maintenance issues. He stated there are reported leaks in the building from DAV (who uses the building). Chairman Kates also stated it was reported the old shooting range is musty and molding. He stated he believes there is a leak in the kitchen as there has been some mold on the cabinets. He stated he would discuss these issues with Mayor Blake.

c) Building Usage – Vice Chairman Smith stated she created a calendar and suggested the Chairman review this with her to make sure all rentals are covered.

Chairman Kates stated he would also like to get a handle on the tenants that use this building.

Vice Chairman Smith reported the Building Usage form is on the web site; however it is difficult to locate. She stated it is found among the “Minutes/Agendas” section. She stated she felt it should be on the main page. She also reported there link for the Fowler Memorial building is no longer on the web site. Vice Chairman also stated the list of Commission members is still incorrect and that it shows individuals no longer on the Commission. She stated she did notice the aldermanic liaisons were changed.

Chairman Kates commented the budget still reflects the group as MAPO.

V. Unfinished Business

None.

VI. New Business

None.

VII. Announcements – Vice Chairman Smith reported the VFW Ladies Auxillary group was running a fundraiser. She stated she is not the organizer, but that she is running it at the district level and wanted to pass this out to all the organizations. She also reported the VFW Christmas party would take place this Friday, December 16, 2011 from 7:00 p.m. to closing; and finally Vice Chairman Smith reported the VFW department visit to the VA Hospital in West Haven would take place tomorrow.

Chairman Kates thanked Mr. Gregory for coming to the meeting and then adjourned the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Board Secretary