

Tinley Park Veterans Commission Minutes of the October 14, 2020 Meeting

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 7:01 p.m.

P=Present / E=Excused / A=Absent

P- Doug Rasmussen - Chairman	A- Board Liaison (None)
P- Roxane Tyssen - Secretary	A- Pat Carr - Staff Liaison
P- Robert Baisa	P- Robert Bullard -US Sub Vets
P- Chris Hansley -VFW Aux. Pres.	P- Jim Hudik
E- Jimmy Hunter	E- Norm Pestlin
A- Eva Reyes - AVMRA	P- Georges Sanon
P- Jim Taylor - Amer.Legion Cmdr.	P- Karen Tobola
P-Don Tomich - MCL, Commandant	A- Ken Wrezzes – VFW Cmdr

Chairman's Comments:

Announcements regarding COVID meeting requirements were made. Dr. Rasmussen discussed the changes within the Commission. Norm Pestlin is stepping down as Secretary (but staying on as a Commissioner) and Roxane Tyssen has been assigned as the new Veterans Commission Secretary. Robert Bullard and Don Tomich were welcomed as new Commissioners.

Corrections/additions to minutes of the last meeting:

Corrections to August and September 2020 Minutes, Don Tomich was Present and not Absent for both meetings. Jim Taylor was Absent for the September 2020 meeting. A motion was made to pass the September 2020 Minutes with, the motion was seconded, all were in favor. The September 2020 Veterans Commission minutes, with corrections, were passed.

Remarks by Liaison:

No Report.

Static Display for Veterans Parkway:

- The Commission is still working on a way to move the granite memorial that is currently located at the Howe Development Center to the Veterans Parkway area. Senator Hastings has been contacted to assist with this move.
- Blue and Gold Star Memorial - The stars are being cleaned and repainted.
- The plaque for the M84 Mortar Carrier is being done. Chairman Rasmussen should have a mock up for approval by the next Commission meeting.
- MK22 Navy Deck Guns: The costs of procuring, moving, and refurbishing for display may be cost prohibitive but will still be kept open for discussion.

- Safety precautions were discussed with regards to the M84 display.
- Chairman Rasmussen updated the Commission on the possible procurement of a Sherman Tank and a Howitzer for display along Veterans Parkway.

Education in Art in Public Buildings:

- Mark D. Iwinski, Band Director at Victor J. Andrew High School. He will be accepting the framed collage of the United States Air Force Band of America at the Veterans Day ceremony on November 11, 2020.

Memorial Flag and Citation:

- Chris Hansley is waiting for responses from the flyers that have been distributed.

Veterans Day:

- This year's ceremony will take place at the 80th Avenue Train Station. The *Portrait of a Soldier** display will be temporarily installed in the train station depot. The actual event is limited attendance but it will be covered virtually for the public.
- Additional logistics of the ceremony including Raising the Flag, Raising the Colors, and a Chaplain were discussed.

Colonel David G. Seaman Veteran/Volunteer Award:

- Governor Patrick Quinn is available to attend the Veterans Day Ceremony. A motion was made to present him with the Col. David G. Seaman Veteran/Volunteer Award. The motion was seconded and passed. Governor Quinn will be presented with this award for his past and current efforts for the betterment of veterans and military service members in the State of Illinois.

Banner Program:**

- Donna Framke and the Village of Tinley Park marketing team put together a flyer to email and hand out for residents to purchase bricks and banners for military veterans. The program will be rolled out at the Veterans Day ceremony.

Correspondence:

- Chairman Rasmussen received an email from the Johnson family thanking the Commission on all they do. Their son, a graduate of Andrew High School, has enlisted in the U.S. Army and will be reporting for BASIC training in October.
- A notification for the Eden Project was provided. The project is calling for all women veterans who need assistance with things like transitioning back to civilian life, survivors guilt, or who have been injured themselves to contact them.
- A career fair for spouses of veterans was held on October 14, 2020. Georges will give a report on it next month.
- There is an annual Orland Park Veterans Golf Classic whose proceeds benefits various non-profit groups and initiatives. This will be placed on the calendar for exploration next year.

New Business:

- Chairman Rasmussen visited the Veterans Garage in Posen. They have invited the Commission to come down for a tour and possibly have a meeting there. A query was posed to the Commission to see if there was interest, which there is. The Commission will explore this option more in the spring.

REPORTS:

- Report from the American Legion:
 - Chaplain Keating has confirmed his availability for the Veterans Day ceremony.
- Report from the VFW:
 - There will be an upcoming blood drive at the VFW after the first of the year.
- Report from the Marine Corps League:
 - Their first meeting will be next Monday.
- Report from the Chicago Base U.S. Submarine Veterans:
 - A direct burial was canceled and not rescheduled due to COVID.
 - The Morris dedication went very well.
- Report from the VFW Auxiliary:
 - With the help of the VFW, the Auxiliary will be doing two food drives; Oct. 17 - 25 will be a snack food drive for the Veteran's Home in Manteno and Nov. 1 - 15 for a Veteran and Community Food Drive to assist two food pantries located in Tinley Park.
 - The Card and Bunco Party did take place but attendance was low.
 - The virtual 5K run did take place.
 - The Auxiliary has plans for another 5k Run in the spring and a golf outing in the fall of 2021.
- Report from the Korean War Veterans (KWVA)/Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH):
 - KWVA – No September or October meeting; hopefully there will be a meeting in November.
 - MOPH – Nothing to report.
- Report from AVMRA:
 - Nothing to report.

Any other business:

- Karen Tobola met with Finance Department Staff at Village Hall; A meeting needs to be set up to work out setting up an account to assist with raising funds for Commission initiatives.
- Chairman Rasmussen revisited the VFW Auxiliary 5k Walk/Run and discussed plans for the run next year. A motion was entertained to have the Commission sponsor the next run at the \$400 level to ensure the Commission can be the top sponsor on the back of the t-shirts, the motion was seconded, all approved. Motion passed.

- The Veterans Garage has a machine to create dog tags for the runners for the next Walk/Run; this will be kept in mind as the next event is planned.
- A shout out was give to the Odyssey Golf Foundation for their support of veterans and their golf outing; kudos were also given to them for their program for veterans for their regular daily golf and weekly raffles.

Comments from the public:

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

The next Commission meeting will be held November 11, 2020

*Details of *Portrait of a Soldier* can be found here:

<http://www.standingupforillinois.org/homefront/portrait.php>

**The military Banner Program can be found here:

https://www.tinleypark.org/news_detail_T5_R241.php