

CITY OF MANCHESTER MEETING OF THE VETERANS COMMISSION

Thursday, April 18, 2023

A meeting of the Veterans Commission of the City of Manchester, Missouri was held at 5 p.m. on the 18th of April 2023, via the video communication site ZOOM, for the transaction of such business that came before the Commission.

Present:

Mayor Mike Clement

Alderman Megan Huether

Secretary Bonnie Krueger

City Administrator Justin Klocke

Ms. Ruth Baker

Mr. Bill Pinkston

Ms. Julie Nguyen

Mr. Bud Niebling

Commander Sam Fletcher

Director Kat Schien, Parks & Recreation

Introduction/Welcome

Mike called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. The amended minutes of the March 15, 2023 meeting was unanimously approved for Justin Klocke to post on the City of Manchester website, with the amended minutes resent.

City Updates

The new City Hall renovations are ahead of schedule, with the old drive through areas currently being framed to incorporate it as part of the interior. The City is going through old documents to prepare for moving.

The Annexation educational efforts kicked off by launching three informational meetings. A strong community engagement team is formed, with Craig Larson as chair.

At the most recent Board of Aldermen meeting, a post-annexation tax plan was approved, which would reduce residential taxes by about \$100 annually.

Harugari Cemetery (Civil War Veterans) Event

The event sponsored by Sons of Union Veterans is being held at 9 am. on April 22 at the Harugari Cemetery to acknowledge and honor the six Civil War heroes, who are founding families of Manchester. Kay and Justin are scheduled to speak as Mike will be on vacation. Parking is on the parking lot across the street at Midwest Petroleum, east of the cemetery.

Memorial Day planning update

Sam has accepted the invitation to be the guest speaker, who will focus his talk on those from St. Louis and Manchester He will present some statistics in major conflicts. David Bennett has agreed to play for us instead of the bag pipe and drummers who were unable to accept the invitation. David played at the Hometown Heroes Veteran's Day event last year. The new

Manchester Police Chaplain will speak at the event. Bonnie is securing the Boy Scouts to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance

Hometown Heroes

Kat said there are 42 total banners, two more than last year. They include 11 new and 31 continuing participants. There will be 28 along Manchester Road, six in Schroeder Park and four at Parkway South High. The other four may be split between the Park and South High. There is not an exact date they go up, but it will be soon.

4th of July Tent

As in last years, the tent will include a free hot dog or beverage, along with information for Veterans. Kat believes there is a Patriot Pack kids' craft to put out. She also said it would be helpful to supply more glow necklaces, which are always in short supply but high demand. Bonnie mentioned that a craft was purchased for Homecoming but never used.

Veterans' Mental Health Initiative in 2023

The Veterans Community Project has their event on May 18 from 8 to noon. Julie and Megan have been unable to attend the organizational meetings, so if anyone has interest in going before the event, they welcome the help.

Other Initiatives and local assistance

The H.E.R.O.E.S. Care facility opened and has a lot of great higher end items in their warehouse to give to veteran families in need. We will sponsor a food drive in May to assist.

Legion Update

Bud Niebling said that there is a decrease in membership numbers as the younger generation does not have the same interest in joining groups. The Legion held their Shake the Can event, which is one of its sources of revenue. Another source is their BINGO nights. The lack of a chef to run the Fish Frys during the Lent season has been a detriment to the financial revenue of the Legion Hall.

Other topics:

Megan suggested we speak to both Bob Whaley and Rep. Wayne Wallingford to line up a speaker for the next POW/MIA event. Megan is unsure of Bob's willingness to speak publicly, but she will invite him to the May Commission Meeting, which is being held in person, to speak to us.

Veterans Day is on a Saturday this year, but it was unanimously decided that the plan will be to host our annual events on the Friday before to keep it during the work week.

Next Meeting

The next meeting date is scheduled for Wednesday, May 17 in person. The exact location to be decided, but we are looking at the Justice Center.

Adjournment

At 5:57 p.m. the meeting was unanimously adjourned.