

CITY OF MANCHESTER

MEETING OF THE VETERANS COMMISSION

November 19, 2020

A meeting of the Veterans Commission of the City of Manchester, Missouri was held at 5 p.m. on the 19th day of November 2020, on the video conference application, Zoom, for the transaction of such business that came before the Commission.

Present:

Mayor Mike Clement
Alderman Megan Huether
Secretary Bonnie Krueger
President Kay Bell
Mr. Bob Bell
Mr. Bill Pinkston
Ms. Julie Nguyen
Ms. Ruth Baker
Ms. Kat Schien
Mr. Bud Niebling
City Administrator Larry Perney

Introduction/Welcome

Kay Bell called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m. Ruth Baker approved the October meeting minutes, Mike Clement seconded. Mayor Clement asked that the minutes be forwarded to City Clerk Justin Klocke to be posted on the city of Manchester website.

Old Business

Debriefing of Veterans Day breakfast

Kat Schien said the drive-through event was successful with about 121 breakfasts served. Bonnie Krueger, Bud Niebling, Julie Nguyen, James Francis and Mike Clement volunteered at the event. Mike had the opportunity to connect with the wife of Charles, a veteran whose family was evicted from their home in Manchester. Today, the family is living in Winchester and Charles recently was promoted in his job.

Expansion of Margaret Stocker Park

The city hosted a walk through with Jay from SWT in Stoecker Park on Nov. 18. It was an opportunity to evaluate options for the addition of 1/3 acre after acquiring the home to the south of the Veterans Memorial.

With the guidance of a landscape architect through a grant obtained, design concepts will be given to community and other stakeholders. A final meeting will finalize the plans. Kat said that they hope to have finalized plans after a few rounds of approval in late spring or early summer.

Hometown Heroes

Kay is working on mock ups to present to the city (including a detailed explanation of the program) to be rolled out to the city. She hopes to get this program established for early 2021. Bud has asked to be on the HH committee.

New Business

Calendar for 2021

Kat is establishing the calendar for the first half of 2021. The veteran events have been given space in the last few Message newsletters so it was suggested to establish our calendar. Bonnie agreed to send a rough calendar draft to the group to get it going.

Veterans Community Project

Megan Huether explained that this organization is coming to St. Louis to build tiny homes for veterans. In addition, this group offers assistance through connections with the VA, job training, etc. Megan is arranging for the Veterans Commission and the Planning groups to have a Zoom meeting with this Kansas City based veteran group. This is another great organization for us to partner with and exchange resources as well. We may need two meetings in January—one for the Zoom call plus our regular planning meeting.

Update on All-Star Trophy

The local Ballwin business is closed. It was bought out by Collegiate Awards, who is based out of Springfield, MO. Bonnie is hoping to get the name plates for the Freedom Memorial Wall through Denny, who has started his own business after being fired from All Star following the buyout. There are no local contacts for work with Collegiate so it makes things a little tougher.

Feed the Masses Food Drive.

The city of Manchester is having a friendly competition between 17 other cities to collect nonperishable food for local pantries, with our collections going to Circle Of Concern in Valley Park. While the goal is to stock the pantries, Mike is pleased that Manchester was in first place at the end of the first week of collections.

Other Veteran Opportunities

In the Nov. 18 issue of WNM, a brief published about Wildwood supporting veteran through three initiatives. The one that is something that Manchester has not implemented is identifying and recognizing veteran owned or businesses or businesses that employ veterans. Julie Nyugen suggested including information or discounts to new homeowners moving into the area that we welcome.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6 p.m. by Kay. It was decided to skip the December meeting and reconvene on Jan. 13 or 14, 2021 at 5 p.m. via Zoom. However, the date will be confirmed once the Zoom meeting is scheduled with the Veterans Community Project.