



**Southfield Veterans'
Commission**

Serving all Vets

Minutes: February 8, 2010

Present:

Commissioners: Dan Brightwell, Tim Wirkus, Gregory Pulliam, Larry McLemore, Felix Seldon, Ethel Grossman

Excused:

Professional Staff: Bryan Jarrell

Volunteers & Visitors: Roy Bell, LC Elizabeth Medina, Capt Niels Hanson

Call to Order (Dan Brightwell) at 6:30PM, Parks & Recreation Bldg, Room 112, with Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting Minutes:

Tim passed out copies of the January meeting minutes. A number of items needed correction. On a motion by Larry, seconded by Gregory, minutes were approved as amended.

Visitors:

Dan introduced **Lt Col** Elizabeth Medina and Capt Niels Hanson of the 414th Civil Affairs Battalion, from the Army Reserve Center here in Southfield.

Lt Col Medina is in command of 5 companies in the battalion, which travel all over the world working with local citizens in establishing a working government. Expanded on this issue and the difficulty in working with some of the younger soldiers that they are receiving, for the most part, fresh out of high school.

Capt Hanson, Operations Officer for the battalion, further expanded on their mission around the world and gave examples of some of the items they do when working in some of these countries.

A general discussion took place between **Lt Col** Medina, Capt Hanson, and the commission members, on how we can all work together, while keeping with the meaning of the Army covenant, which was signed last year.

Chair Report:

Dan reported that he met recently with Councilwoman Joan Seymour and she has indicated that she would like to work with our commission to get items accomplished.

Police Report:

Bryan reported that he is still working getting us a price for the lapel pin design we approved at the last meeting.

Raised the various methods that we could meet with council to fill them in on what we have been doing. We could either meet with council at one of their

Council-of-the-Whole (COW) meetings, which are not televised, or at a regular council meeting which is televised to the entire city. No decision was reached.

Treasurer's Report:

Gregory reported that he has little to report. Wanted to know if someone could get us a current balance sheet of our trust account? Bryan indicated who Gregory should see at the City Treasurer's office to get a full report.

Old Business:

May 21st Veteran Seminar:

Felix reported that things are on track for this event. Currently has several presenters lined up to speak at the event. Felix requested approval of a \$250 budget for this event. On a motion by Tim, seconded by Ethel, a budget of \$250 was approved for this event.

History Project:

Dan reported that we are booked through March. He, Ethel, & Larry are working the interviews at the library on Wednesdays.

Will be starting interviews at the Trowbridge senior center. Those interviews will be handled on Thursdays by Tim & Gregory.

Assignments from previous meeting:

Bryan reported on the pin program and meeting with council (see above).

Felix is holding off on a visit by the commission to the Holly Cemetery till it warms up a bit.

New Business:

Dan reported on the upcoming Spell Bowl at the library on March 25th. All proceeds from this event, hosted by the library, will come to the Veterans' Commission. Collected money from the commissioners that will be part of our team.

An open discussion regarding the information we received from the two representatives from the 414th Civil Affairs Battalion. We all felt their presentation was great.

Felix reported a veterans meeting at American House this Thursday from 2 to 4PM. All are invited to attend.

The next meeting of the Veterans' Commission is on Monday, March 8th, 6:30PM, at the Parks & Rec Bldg.

On a motion by Tim, seconded by Ethel, the meeting adjourned at 8:15PM.

Tim Wirkus

Secretary

Minutes approved, with highlighted changes, at the March regular meeting.