



**Southfield Veterans'  
Commission**  
**Serving all Vets**

Minutes: January 11, 2010

*Present:*

Commissioners: Dan Brightwell, Tim Wirkus, Gregory Pulliam, Larry  
McLemore, **Felix Seldon**  
Excused: Ethel Grossman  
Professional Staff: Bryan Jarrell  
Volunteers & Visitors: Roy Bell

Call to Order (Dan Brightwell) at 6:35PM, Parks & Recreation Bldg, Room 221, with Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting Minutes:

Tim passed out copies and read the November meeting minutes. Gregory indicated a minor change was needed and it was made. On a motion by Felix, seconded by Gregory, minutes were approved as amended.

Chair Report:

Dan reported on the following items:

1. Ethel is in Florida visiting relatives.
2. Louis Robinson has resigned from the board for personal reasons.
3. Gregory's paperwork for reappointment has been **approved for submission** to City Council.
4. An application from a person wishing to join our commission has been received and is being reviewed. We should receive shortly.
5. An ad was placed and paid for by the commission in the MLK program.
6. Dan and Chief Thomas attended a welcome home ceremony for the 414<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion at Wayne State. It went very well.

Police Report:

Requested that when we do items for the troops serving overseas, like sending care packages, we notify the chief since he receives credit for those efforts.

Affirmed that we do have an application to fill the vacant seat left by Louis. He will get us copies for our next meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Gregory indicated that we have had no changes to our Trust Account.

Dan gave Gregory a copy of a recent check we have received from the DAV. Gregory will report this income at next months meeting.

## Old Business:

### May Veteran Seminar:

Felix passed out copies of a letter that will be going out to the presenters for the May 21<sup>st</sup> seminar. Seminar will be held in the pavilion from 1 to 5PM, with a noon setup time. Tim asked if the new Vet Center in Pontiac will be invited and Felix confirmed that it would be.

### Patch/Pin Program:

Larry passed around samples that Louis, Tim, and he had collected for everyone to review. On a suggestion by Felix the pin design was modified to remove the city seal and replace it with the American Flag, since Bryan had noted that we are not allowed to use the city seal on anything. Bryan will get a cost estimate for 50 of these pins and update us at our next meeting.

### History Project:

Dan mentioned a letter written by a couple of US Senators praising our work on the History Project, which can be found on the Library of Congress website.

Due to a change in Tim's work schedule requested that some of the other commissioners step forward to assist at the Wednesday interviews. Tim will continue to make all the DVDs.

Interviews are currently scheduled through March.

We have an appointment on the 14<sup>th</sup> at the Trowbridge Senior Center to make a presentation on the project.

## New Business:

### Army Covenant/Pet Project Ordinance Change:

Tim passed out copies of a proposed city ordinance change regarding pets, as part of our Army covenant. After much discussion and debate it was suggested that this might get us involved over our heads and that we should hold up on this until all members have had an opportunity to think it over.

### 464<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Battalion homecoming:

Tim mentioned that the Michigan National Guard has contacted him concerning the possibility of Southfield hosting the homecoming for this unit. No date or time has yet been determined by the Guard. Tim will keep everyone informed as details are released.

City Council Presentation:

Felix raised the question if our commission should make a formal presentation to City Council on our activities. It was decided that this might be a good idea, just must figure out when. This might also be a good opportunity to present the US flag Tim received from the 464<sup>th</sup> to the city.

Trip to National Cemetery in Holly:

Felix raised the question if all of the commissioners should take a ride out to Holly to visit the cemetery since many commissioners have never been there. Could we get a bus or large van to take us all there?

Request for support letter from the Library:

Tim reported that he had spoken with Kelly Ireland at the library and she had requested a possible letter in support of a grant request the library was making. This grant would be to get recent book writers on the Vietnam War to appear at the library and it was felt a letter of support from us would help. Board approved a motion to write such a letter if so requested by the library.

Assignments:

Based on all of the above the following assignments were made so that information will be ready for the next meeting:

1. Felix to look into a trip to both Holly & the VA Clinic in Pontiac.
2. Bryan will look into the cost of the pins.
3. **Brian** to look into a formal presentation to City Council.

The next meeting of the Veterans' Commission will be held on Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:30PM in the Parks & Rec Building.

*On a motion by Tim, seconded by Felix, the meeting adjourned at 8:32PM.*

Tim Wirkus  
Secretary

Minutes approved as amended, shown in **highlight**, at a regular meeting on 2/8/10