



**Southfield Veterans'
Commission**

Serving all Vets

Minutes: July 13, 2009

Present:

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

Excused:

Professional Staff: Bryan Jarrell

Volunteers & Visitors: Tracy Adanczyk

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

Meeting Minutes:

Copies of the June meeting minutes were passed out to all commissioners and read by Tim. Tim thanked Gregory for taking the minutes since he was attending a veteran forum in Centerline. One correction was made (Louis' name was spelled wrong). On a motion by Felix, seconded by Ethel, minutes were approved as corrected.

Visitor:

Tim introduced Tracy from Peace of Mind Home Care. Tracy's company provides non-medical care to people in their homes, i.e., wash dishes, walk the dog, help with shopping, etc. This allows people to remain in their homes instead of moving to a care facility. Tracy was also interested in whatever information we could supply regarding VA benefits veterans can get to help with this.

Police Report:

Bryan had money for commissioners that had submitted receipts for commission purchase in the past month.

Presented Larry with his new Veterans' Commission ID card.

Reported on a conversation he had with Sue Ward in the legal department regarding the commission holding fundraisers. We are allowed to raise money.

Voiced concern of the commission getting too close to commercial organizations and companies. As a city commission many companies see us as an opportunity to make money so we need to always be clear that we do not endorse any commercial company to provide any service. Should something go wrong with the service we, and the city, might be held libel.

(Note: At 6:58PM the commission meeting adjourned so that we could attend the City Council meeting where Larry McLemore was sworn in officially as a commissioner. Meeting resumed at 7:30PM.)

Treasurer's Report:

Gregory reported no new numbers at this time. Hoping to get something from the city that shows our current balances.

Chair Report:

Dan passed out some information regarding current bills in Lansing that will be of concern to veterans.

Old Business:

June Veteran Seminar:

Felix reported that the seminar went very well and was well attended.

Dan pointed out that he received numerous phone calls on our phone number from people wanting to know location, etc.

Felt we might have lost a number of veterans to our event, especially those with disabilities, due to the fact that the north city hall parking lot was closed for an event that would be held on Saturday.

Channel 15 filmed the event and a DVD should be out around the middle of August.

Has proposed letters ready to go to the various presenters thanking them for attending.

Flag Program:

Dan reported that on July 1st he met with the Fire Chief regarding this program. The Fire Department will support and work with us on this program. Looking at Flag Day, June 14, 2010, as the date for our first ceremony. Honor guard from the Police/Fire Departments would be in attendance along with city officials. More information on this item as it becomes available.

History Project:

Dan reported that we have interviews booked through September.

We will be hosting our first interview at the Bloomfield Twp Public Library on August 19th. Copies of these interviews will also be made available to the Southfield Library.

The North American Indian Veteran Association in Centerline contacted Dan regarding the possibility of us training them to do their own interviews.

New Business:

Business Cards:

A number of commissioners would like business cards. Tim indicated he would print those out and get to the commissioners.

B-17 Raffle Tickets:

Chief Thomas would like our assistance is selling these tickets. Proceeds go to assist veterans to fly to Washington to the World War II memorial.

Assignments:

Dan felt that all of us should be clear on what each of us on the commission will work on. The following assignments were made and confirmed by all commissioners:

Officers	Seminars	History Project	Flag	Website	Women Issues	Telephone	Email	Gov Liaison
Dan Felix Gregory Tim	Felix Louis	Dan Ethel Tim Larry	Dan Larry Gregory	Tim	Ethel	Dan	Tim	Dan Felix

Open Discussion:

Tim indicated that Matt Hagaman, veteran employment specialist from the state at the John Grace center, has been transferred to Bay City. Two people from other offices are currently maintaining the office until a new person can be hired for Southfield. Assistance is available on Monday & Thursday.

Tim made a motion that we do not have an August meeting. Gregory seconded that motion, which was passed by the commission. Tim will notify the city clerk's office regarding the meeting being canceled in August.

The next meeting of the Veterans' Commission will take place on Monday, September 14th, 6:30PM, at the Parks & Rec Building.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50PM on a motion by Gregory, seconded by Felix.

Tim Wirkus
Secretary

Meeting minutes approved at a regular scheduled Veterans' Commission meeting on 9/14/09.

Tim Wirkus