



**Southfield Veterans'
Commission**

Serving all Vets

Minutes: March 8, 2010

Present:

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

Excused: Larry McLemore

Professional Staff: Bryan Jarrell

Volunteers & Visitors: Roy Bell, Jim Bezy, Mark Meadows, Tracy Golliday-Champagne

Meeting opened with the pledge of allegiance at 6:30PM in room 112 of the Parks & Rec Bldg.

Dan introduced Mr. Jim Bezy to the commission. An application was filed by Jim to join our commission.

Meeting Minutes:

Tim passed out copies and read the February meeting minutes. Bryan asked that the ranks of military people be better spelled out since some might not understand the abbreviations. On a motion by Felix, seconded by Ethel, minutes were approved as amended.

Police Report:

Bryan reported on the lapel pin cost: \$4.83 for 50 pins + \$60 set-up fee, for the higher quality pin. A lower quality pin would be \$4.61 for 50, again with a \$60 set-up fee.

On a motion by Tim, seconded by Felix, the commission voted to go ahead with the purchase of the higher quality pin. Bryan will handle.

Introduction of guests:

Tim introduced Mr. Mark Meadows, Veteran Employment Specialist for the State of Michigan, Department of Labor & Economic Growth.

Mark gave his background as a Marine and his current position with the State of Michigan over at the John Grace Center here in Southfield. His main function is to assist veterans in locating jobs in the metro area. Mark also spoke on some of the many veteran benefits that are available from the state for those seeking employment.

A general discussion took place after Mark's presentation on how the Veterans' Commission could assist Mark in his efforts.

Gregory introduced Ms Tracy Golliday-Champagine from the Pontiac Vet Center, which is part of the VA Health Care system.

Tracy gave her background as an Air Force veteran.

Tracy specializes in the counseling of combat veterans of all wars, especially those that suffer from PTSD. She also works on programs to assist PTSD veterans in obtaining employment.

Treasurer's Report:

Gregory reported that there are no changes to our Trust Account.

Chair Report:

Dan reported on the flag presentation event that took place on 2/26 at the US Post Office here in Southfield. Channel 4 was present for the event as well as representatives from the PR department of the Postal Service.

Felix asked that in the future all commissioners be notified of these events so that all may attend, if they so desire.

Old Business:

May Veterans Seminar:

Felix passed out fliers for this event. Event will be held in the Parks & Rec Department, room 115, and will center on the John Dingel center in downtown Detroit.

History Project:

Dan reported that the project is rolling along. We are currently booked with interviews thru the end of April.

Tim reported that interviews have taken place at the Trowbridge Senior Center with the assistance of Gregory on Thursdays. When finished will start interviews at American House.

Spell Bowl:

The Spell Bowl will take place on the 25th of this month with all proceeds going to our commission. Channel 15 will be there to film the event at the library.

Presentation to City Council:

The commission would like to proceed with a presentation to the full city council at a regular meeting to inform them of what we have been doing these past couple of years.

The next regular scheduled meeting of the Veterans' Commission will take place on Monday, April 12th, 6:30PM, in the Parks & Rec Bldg.

On a motion by Gregory, seconded by Tim, the meeting adjourned at 8:10PM.

Note: After the meeting adjourned the board met in a closed-door session to discuss and vote on the application of Mr. Jim Bezy to join our commission.

Tim Wirkus
Secretary

Minutes approved at a regular scheduled meeting without changes on 4/2/10