



**Southfield Veterans'
Commission**
Serving all Vets

Minutes: October 12, 2009

Present:

Commissioners: Dan Brightwell, Tim Wirkus, Felix Seldon, Gregory Pulliam, Louis Robinson, Larry McLemore
Excused: Ethel Grossman, Bryan Jarrell
Professional Staff:
Volunteers & Visitors: Joseph Barczyk, Dan Egler

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

Meeting Minutes:

Gregory read the September meeting minutes since Tim was out of town for that meeting. On a motion by Felix, seconded by Tim, minutes were approved as read.

Chair Report:

Dan reported that the City Veterans' Day ceremony would be held on Tuesday, November 10th, at 11AM in front of city hall. Asked that all commissioners be there by 10:30.

Read an item he received from Representative Sandy Levin's office regarding the Salvation Army receiving a \$3 million grant to operate a veterans' 94 bed homeless shelter. We could act as a referral service for them. Felix suggested that we send them a letter of introduction so that they know who we are. Dan indicated he would get a letter out to them.

Treasurer Report:

Gregory indicated there have been no changes to our trust account.

Presenters:

Dan introduced Joseph Barczyk & Dan Egler from the Army One Source and the Family Assistance Center for National Guard members.

Both presenters indicated how they work for veterans and active duty members, have 9 offices located around the state, working out of Taylor. Both of these groups are non-profit, per a question by Dan. Both presenters took a number of questions from the commission members.

Old Business:

Dan indicated that the flag program is still on hold since we have yet to hear back from the post office on getting old mailboxes.

The Veteran History project continues to move along with veterans scheduled thru the end of the year. We will only be doing two Wednesdays in November & two Wednesdays in December due to holidays, etc.

New Business:

Dan raised the issue of our commission meeting for dinner in December instead of a regular meeting, similar to what we did last year. After some discussion it was decided that we would meet on December 14th for dinner (our regular meeting date) at Sweet Loraine's on Greenfield at 6:30.

Tim raised the concept of working with the city to change some of the pet ordinances regarding numbers, etc. This would be part of the covenant we signed with the Army where citizens of Southfield could house pets for service members assigned overseas. Board agreed to allowing Tim to prepare a proposed ordinance change and bring to a future meeting for the board to comment on.

Dan raised the issue of creating an insignia/pin to represent our commission, or maybe jackets. After some discussion the board decided that jackets are out, but that some sort of insignia and/or pin might be nice. This idea originated from the Chief Thomas. A committee consisting of Felix, Louis, Larry, & Tim will work on this item and present their results to the full commission at a later date.

Felix raised the issue of hosting another of our Veteran seminars, possibly June of next year, and wanted to know what we, as a board, felt the topic should be. Felix asked that we all consider this question so it can be discussed at a future meeting.

Louis raised the issue of a friend thinking about starting his own business and wanted to know what help/information was available. Tim mentioned the seminar in Troy on the 23rd that might be of help.

Gregory mentioned that Vince Gregory sponsored a bill in Lansing, HB5279, that will allow soldiers to vote via email. Also mentioned the Veterans' Day parade downtown Detroit on November 7th.

The next meeting regular meeting of the commission will take place on Monday, **November 9th**, 6:30PM at the P & R building.

On a motion by Tim, seconded by Gregory, the meeting adjourned at 8:25PM

Tim Wirkus
Secretary

Minutes approved, as amended by highlights, at a regular meeting on 11/9/09