



SOUTHFIELD VETERANS' COMMISSION MINUTES – DECEMBER 10, 2018

The meeting of the Southfield Veterans' Commission was called to order at 6:40 PM by Vice-Chairman Gerald Houston and reciting in unison the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

G. Pulliam, B. Clarke, R. Caruthers, G. Houston, D. Craig, B. Seldon. (a quorum)
Member Excused: C. Miller

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Barbara Seldon

The November minutes were read by Barbara Seldon. (Accepted without correction). They have been placed on the website.

TREASURERS REPORT: Rod Caruthers

\$7007.00 in our treasury. There are some outstanding bills that have not been paid. Our Southfield police representative Lt. Christine Miller will be taking care of payment.

VICE-CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE: Gerald Houston

Mr. Houston met with the Women's Veterans' Empowerment group. He along with Barbara Seldon attended their meeting held at Southfield P and R room 115. It was well attended about 80 Women veterans attended. The Empowerment group is looking to develop a data base of women veterans. SVC plans to do the same for Southfield, Michigan.

We are not merging with the Empowerment group. We have partnered with the women's group to help keep us informed about women veteran's interests and issues. Barbara Seldon will be the representative.

The Women's group is planning a "money smart" event on March 30, 2019. SVC will partner with them to help give strength to their efforts.

VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT: Gerald Houston

The project is going good. We have completed one for this month. We cancelled one due to passing of Tim Wirkus. We will need a replacement for the video portion that Tim handled. Mr. Houston is working on that.

Mr. Houston gave a commemorative statement about Mr. Tim Wirkus.

Comments were shared by members of the commission:

- You could see him everywhere.
- Most impressively was his work at the freedom Center at the airport.
- He represented someone focused on all vets.
- He was very involved in the Fisher House.
- He will be truly missed.

It was moved by Barbara Seldon, and seconded by Mr. Houston that Tim Wirkus be placed in our Necrology records. Passed

It was moved by Barbara Seldon and seconded by Mr. Houston that we recognize him posthumously with our Veterans Award of excellence plaque for his outstanding service to all veterans and present it on Memorial Day. Passed. Mr. Houston will coordinate this effort.

Discussion occurred about using the word "Southfield" for the Veterans History Project. It was generally recognized that we interview all over the Metropolitan Detroit Area, should we stop using the word Southfield? Some people think we are limited to Southfield residents only. Tabled for further discussion.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The Christmas baskets project will not be completed. Instead, SVC will continue to give to Southfield Human Relations Department \$500.00 in support of their veteran initiatives.

Discussion occurred about new Berets for newly appointed commissioners. It was decided to purchase 10. There is a need for 3.

The commission has been asked to support the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Task Force Peace Program. It was generally agreed that this is a good project. All members (with the exception of one) will become patron donors and personally donate \$25.00 toward the project.

The commission itself has taken a photograph and made a full page advertisement for the MLK Souvenir booklet.

NEW BUSINESS:

Memorial Day and Veteran's Day:

Since the Veteran's and Memorial day Programs are the responsibility of the Southfield Veteran's Commission. Plans for 2019 will start in January. The City of Southfield, Department of Community Relations will provide City support.

It was moved by Rod Caruthers that we form an exploratory, fact finding executive committee to determine just what and how we shall accomplish the Veterans and Memorial Day programs. Seconded by Gerald Houston. Passed.

An exploratory executive committee meeting consisting of the president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer is scheduled for January, 5, 2019 at 10 AM at Southfield P and R. Plans will be discussed about the Memorial Day event on May 25th.

Discussion ensued about the evaluation of the 2018 Veteran's Day event. There were very positive anecdotal comments. The committee will design the program and determine just what the program will contain. The focus will be on those veterans who have given their lives for the freedoms that we enjoy.

Discussion occurred about increasing the number of veteran commissioners to help with the increasing amount of work needed to accomplish the goals. It was decided not to increase as that would require a by-laws change.