

CITY OF MANCHESTER

MEETING OF THE VETERANS COMMISSION

Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2022

A meeting of the Veterans Commission of the City of Manchester, Missouri was held at 4:30 p.m. on the 12th day of January 2022, on the video conference application, Zoom, for the transaction of such business that came before the Commission.

Present:

Mayor Mike Clement
Alderman Megan Huether
President Kay Bell
Secretary Bonnie Krueger
City Administrator Justin Klocke
Ms. Ruth Baker
Mr. Bob Bell
Ms. Julie Nguyen
Mr. Bud Niebling
Mr. Bill Pingston
Ms. Kat Schien
Mr. James Francis
Commander Sam Fletcher

Introduction/Welcome

Kay Bell called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. James Francis made the motion to approve the Minutes of the Oct. 21 meeting and Mike Clement seconded it with approval for Justin Klocke to post on the City of Manchester website.

Current Roster

Verification of all roster contact information for the current commissioners was made. It was discussed that upper- and lower-case characters has no bearing on receiving emails.

Flags of Valor on Art Hill mailing

With an addition of 40 flags from Rick Randall, the City of Manchester is commissioned to mail 240 flags to Gold Star families. All but 30 have been distributed to volunteers. Several volunteers have finished their box(es) but a few volunteers declined to participate. About 100 of the flags have been successfully mailed, including about 44 from Bonnie. At this time, Bonnie will assess the need for additional volunteers. Mayor Mike requested that Bonnie compose an article about how she is touched by the project, which may be published online on the Veterans page. She may be asked to speak at an upcoming Board of Aldermen meeting as well.

She is meeting with Rick Randall later, but will ask about who is taking over this project for the 25th anniversary of 9/11. He said following the 25th anniversary FOV event, they will store the flags (dog tags and photos) to be used again. During the "other topics" portion of the meeting, Mike approved the acceptance of the flag of John Stone, a Vermont based veteran, whose FOV flag was declined for personal reasons. It can be used as an anchor flag when needed.

Flags of Valor art exhibit

The art exhibit is scheduled from May 16 to July 9, 2022. There are two components: The story of the event as told by Rick Randall and Lee Presser. The second is an open entry from all three events. Call for entry will be at the end of February, with an April deadline and early May selection. It is an un-juried selection by peers.

Hometown Heroes Banner Program

Of the 28 open spots for banners (including Parkway), as of the commission meeting date, one slot was still available for purchase, per Kat. The banners still remaining at the Justice Center will be removed soon. When the Bells were in Mississippi, they noticed a town with the HH banners hanging. It included a special banner with the emblems from the four major branches, including Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines that was from the city itself. Kay suggested

Manchester make a similar banner (or two), but include Coast Guard as well. Because of the popularity of the program, different suggestions about other placement of banners to expand the number of applicants was discussed. West County EMS, at Stoecker Park, further down East and West on Manchester, the bridge overpass and at Manchester Highlands. Kat recommended staying someone narrow in placement instead of having them too spread out, plus concerns of distracted driving looking at the banners. Before a vote is taken to make changes to the program, the city will investigate if there are other viable options. A vote may be taken in February.

Installation at Veterans Memorial Park

The plaque for PO1 Robin Collins was dropped off to the Parks Dept but Kat said it has not yet been hung at the Veterans Memorial. The person who typically does that is Craig Waterhouse, who died recently.

Rescheduled Recognition of 100-year-old WWII Veteran Bill Dees

Originally Bill was going to be recognized at the first Board of Aldermen meeting in January, but with an upsurge of COVID cases, the current meeting format for now is ZOOM. His daughter did not feel that was a good option for him and preferred to meet in person when it is allowed. He had his family did celebrate his birthday (Dec 24) at Forest Hills Country Club and had a great time!

Review of upcoming events, planning calendar for 2022.

Kat reviewed what dates should be in the next Manchester Message mailing. Adding the FOV art exhibit would be a good addition to the calendar.

It led into various other programming ideas. Mike suggested a food drive for the Jefferson Barracks Food Pantry that would partner the Veterans Commission with Manchester Cares collaborating together. He will investigate what time of year the pantry has the greatest need. Bonnie suggested coinciding with Memorial Day and the end of the school year is one viable option. A smaller version of the Veterans Resource event was suggested too. Mike said partnering with the Kaufman Fund might be an avenue to pursue it. Julie also suggested looking into the district hosting a Military Signing Ceremony at South High, similar to what has been done at Eureka in the past. Bonnie said she would check with Dr. Aitch if Parkway would consider it despite COVID concerns.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held by Zoom on Wed. Feb. 23 at 4:30 p.m.

Adjournment

At 5:55 p.m. the meeting was unanimously adjourned.