

# CITY OF MANCHESTER

## MEETING OF THE VETERANS COMMISSION

Thursday, March 18, 2021

A meeting of the Veterans Commission of the City of Manchester, Missouri was held at 5:00 p.m. on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021, 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  
Mr. Bill Pinkston  
City Administrator Larry Perney

Ms. Ruth Baker  
Mr. Bud Niebling  
Mr. Bob Bell  
Mr. James Francis  
Parks, Recreation and Arts Director Kat Schien

### **Introduction/Welcome**

Kay Bell called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m. Ruth Baker made the motion to approve the Minutes of the January 13, 2021 and the February 24, 2021 meetings. Bill Pinkston seconded the motion which was unanimously approved. The approved minutes will be forwarded to City Clerk Justin Klocke to be posted on the City of Manchester website.

### **Thank you to members: Kay Bell, Ruth Baker and Bill Pinkston**

Mike Clement thanked members Kay Bell, Ruth Baker, and Bill Pinkston for accepting a three-year reappointment to the Veterans Commission.

### **Memorial Day, 2021: Plan live or live stream?**

The Memorial Day event in 2019 was live, but, because of the pandemic, the 2020 event was virtual. Of course, the Commission wants to maintain social distancing and not violate St. Louis County's protocol for this year's event.

Discussion ensued in regard to people who are still very cautious and until higher number of people have received the Covid-19 vaccinations, turnout may be low. It is uncertain in May how circumstances will be, but probably by Fall or maybe during the Summer, things will be more open. A possibility would be to have the Commission members and a few others, such as those who have ordered a banner to join the event. The consensus was to have a small group attend the event and to livestream. James Francis stated that he had spoken last year, and unless someone else volunteers, he can do it again this year.

### **Flags of Valor on Art Hill, September, 2021**

Mayor Clement stated that a Manchester/regional team will support the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11 at Art Hill. He advised that a list of names of volunteers has begun, and if anyone knows of a volunteer, please let him know. He said he had reached out to Rick Randall who assured him that the dog tags, photos, etc. will be ready by July 15. Matching dog tags and names and attaching them to flags will be done upstairs at City Hall on weekends in July. Commission members are requested to assist, and the Police Department may want to be involved. Information will be included in the upcoming *Manchester Message*. Kay Bell indicated that an Auxiliary member and daughter from the American Legion Post have volunteered, and there may be more

from the Auxiliary; Commander Mike Beasley will be contacted and a request will be taken to the Auxiliary. It was suggested that Ellie might do something to promote this event and advise that volunteers are needed.

### **Hometown Heroes Banner Program**

Kay Bell stated that she has been talking with Karla at City Hall who is coordinating and taking orders for the banners honoring veterans which will be flying on Manchester Road. Pictures of the Hometown Heroes don't necessarily need to have the individual in uniform. There was discussion about including signage at the Police Facility and the Park to let people know about this. Kat Schien reported that the count is close to ten right now, and she suggested reaching out to Matthew Walker's family and the Terri Sue Fussner family.

### **Installation at Veterans Memorial Park**

Megan Huether said that she and Bonnie Krueger have been working on this. She expressed concern about the funds available in the budget. She suggested that since Bonnie has taken the lead on this, that she be allowed to fill us in on details at a future meeting.

Mike Clement reminded the members about an email he had sent informing that Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m., there will be a Zoom meeting concerning concepts offering improvements and expansion for the Veterans Memorial Park. Megan Huether stated that with landscape architecture, they are looking at how the current parking lot area may be used. Friends are being invited on the City's Facebook page as well, to get folks there to talk about it.

### **Other Topics**

#### **Veterans Resource Event**

Mike Clement said that at some point we need to consider something that we all hold close which is the Veterans Resource Event and whether it is doable this year. He said Kat has contact information for vendors and we know how to promote it.

#### **Soda, drinks, sandwiches at summer events for Veterans**

Mike Clement mentioned that soda, drinks, and sandwiches are to be provided for summer programs.

#### **Scholarships**

Kat Schien mentioned scholarships for Veterans to parks and pool programs.

#### **Veterans Concert**

Mike Clement asked if there is any update about the Veterans Concert for the Vietnam era. Kat Schien responded that nothing is planned yet for this year. Kay Bell had said that she could reach out to Bill and Rosie Sei, and Kat agreed that she would initiate the conversation and see how this plans out.

#### **Homecoming**

Kay Bell said that at the Auxiliary meeting, there were questions about Homecoming this year. Mike Clement responded that it will be considerably more than last year, and the Homecoming Committee is looking at what has been done in the past.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Veterans Commission will be on Wednesday, April 21 at 4:30 p.m.

**Adjournment**

At 5:53 p.m., James Francis made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mike Clement and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Baker, Acting Secretary