

CITY OF MANCHESTER

MEETING OF THE VETERANS COMMISSION

Wednesday, April 20, 2022

A meeting of the Veterans Commission of the City of Manchester, Missouri was held at 4:30 p.m. on the 20th day of April, 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
City Administrator Justin Klocke
Ms. Ruth Baker

Mr. Bob Bell
Mr. Bill Pinkston
Ms. Julie Nguyen
Director of Parks, Rec. and Arts Kat Schien
Mr. Bud Niebling

Introduction/Welcome

President Kay Bell called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m. Ruth Baker made the motion to approve the Minutes of the March 30, 2022 meeting and Bud Niebling seconded it with approval for Justin Klocke to post on the City of Manchester website.

Hometown Heroes Banner Program

Kat Schien reported that there are 40 applications for banners, half of them are new applications and half are renewals. She stated that there are 24 poles along Manchester Road and four more poles without banners. There are also six poles at the park and four at Parkway. She stated that the photo editing is done and the designs are being sent to applicants for them to check, and then the banners will be ordered the week of May 9. She indicated that there would be 28 banners along Manchester Road, and those would be the ones from new applicants, plus there would be additional poles for renewals to be along Manchester Road too. She questioned if Matthew Walker's or Terri Sue Fussner's banners should be along Manchester and asked about checking with the Legion in regard to the additional Manchester Road spots. She reported that the banners would be installed the week before Memorial Day. There was discussion about having the bios on the website and possibly having a QR code on the banners that would take a person to the veteran's file. Kat stated that she would be concerned about the coordination, but likes the idea for ease of access. Applications for next year will be available at the City Hall, the Parks Department, or online with a deadline of April 1, 2023.

Flags of Valor Photo Display

Kat Schien mentioned that so far there are 20 photos, and entries are due this Friday. She is expecting something from Rick Randall. Kat stated that currently she does not see a date for an opening reception. Mayor Clement stated that there could be available at the event some wine, beer, soda and background music which could be funded either by the Veterans Commission budget or the mayor's budget. He stated that he would recommend a one to 1 ½ hour event and recognize the photography. Rich Randall might have a list of the Gold Star Families that he would share. The consensus of the Commission members was to go ahead and plan this event. The exhibition dates are May 16 through July 11. At this time, there are no plans to have a juried selection and awards. The Flags of Valor will be on display, as well, and the complete display space will depend on dimensions; if necessary, the display could extend out into the hallway. President Kay Bell stated that so far, the Commission hasn't spent much money out of the budget.

Memorial Day Event Schedule (May 30)

Kay Bell stated that boy scouts from their grandson's troop would not be available, and Alderman Megan Huether stated that Commander Mike Beasley indicated that the Legion will not have a team available that day for the Colors. Unfortunately, Parkway South High School does not have a ROTC Program. Local Boy Scout troops can be contacted, and Mayor Clement acknowledged that two scouts from St. Joseph's earned their Eagle Ranks, and were honored at the Board meeting Monday night, perhaps they could be contacted. The consensus of the group was that Mayor Clement should ask them. There was discussion about the protocol for posting the Colors on a Memorial Day. Bud Niebling stated that the Legion has the American Flag and the Legion Flag which they post and the flags are then removed after the meeting. Discussion ensued regarding having three flags, the American Flag, the State Flag and the POW/MIA Flag, if the Commission could get commitment of three boy scouts. Mayor Clement reported that the Chaplain from the Police

Department will be one of the pastors at the event, and he suggested a pastor from Manchester United Methodist Church because of his wife's involvement with veterans. He informed that the West County EMS and Fire Protection District has given permission to use their parking lot, as well as the Manchester United Methodist Church. Alderman Huether stated that Gold Star families should be invited, as well as the Robin Collins family. Justin Klocke stated that there could also be an article in the *Manchester Message*.

Memorial Day recognition of the City heroes

Mayor Clement asked for discussion as how the City's heroes whose names are on the plaque should be recognized in the ceremony. Bill Pinkston suggested that as the names on the plaque are mentioned, that the families could stand or be recognized that they are present. During the program, the bagpipe will play "Amazing Grace" and after the names of the heroes are read, there could either be 20 seconds of silence or music, some pause to reflect. There will be taps after the presentation of the wreaths, and Mayor Clement also suggested 20 seconds of silence at that time. Alderman Huether asked if there would be an issue of having the Parkway South High School flag there, and Bill Pinkston stated that would be a good idea, because many people don't even realize that high schools have flags. It was mentioned that this could be discussed during a meeting with the new principal of Parkway South High School on Monday. Perhaps the principal could let the Commission use a flag or allow us to buy one. Mayor Clement suggested another meeting of the planning group the week of May 9.

Food Drive for Jefferson Barracks

The "Forces for Food" city-wide food drive is tentatively set for the month of May. The "Manchester Cares" schedule will include the drive for food. Bill Pinkston asked if there is a preferred list, and Mayor Clement responded that he will recheck on that. He said this will become a big event and he will ask West County EMS and Fire Protection District and the Legion to join in the effort.

July 4th Veterans Commission tent

The plan is to have the Veterans Commission tent at the Fourth of July celebration from 4:00 until 8:00 p.m. and volunteers will be needed for two-hour shifts. The tent will offer free sandwiches or drinks to veterans. The tent seems to attract candidates for state offices, too. Kat Schien will make the tickets for the event. Justin Klocke and Bud Niebling volunteered to work a shift.

City thank-you for the Veterans Commission

Mayor Clement said it has been recommended that all boards and commissions be recognized for their efforts. He said it would include the member and spouse or guest. He said that the possibilities would include dinner out, a catered banquet or a picnic in the park with family. He said this does not need to take place immediately, he just wanted the Veterans Commission members to be thinking about it.

Other business

A Veterans breakfast is being planned at the Legion again this year on Veterans Day.

A homecoming booth suggestion was made that there be activities for children to do; this will be on a future agenda to discuss about what that engagement piece may be for the homecoming tent. Last year, for the most part, people just walked by the tent unless they were veterans. A way to engage the adults might start with engaging the children.

Two new police officers began their employment with the City within the last six weeks, and both are veterans, that makes nine police officers now who are veterans. There was a comment about inviting City employees who are veterans to a community event.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. by Zoom.

Adjournment

At 5:30 p.m. the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth E. Baker, Acting Secretary