

CITY OF MANCHESTER

MEETING OF THE VETERANS COMMISSION

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

A meeting of the Veterans Commission of the City of Manchester, Missouri was held at 4:30 p.m. on the 21st day of April 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
Secretary Bonnie Krueger
City Administrator Larry Perney

Ms. Ruth Baker
SSgt. Westley Moore
Mr. Bob Bell
Ms. Julie Nguyen
Parks, Recreation and Arts Director Kat Schien

Introduction/Welcome

Kay Bell called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Ruth Baker made the motion to approve the Minutes of the March 18 meeting and Mike Clement seconded it with unanimous approval. The approved minutes will be forwarded to City Clerk Justin Klocke to be posted on the City of Manchester website.

Memorial Day, 2021: Update

Mike Clement identified most of the speakers and wreath-bearers but he could use a few more. While the event will be live-streamed on Facebook, the Veterans Commission will be invited to attend in person, as well as, the various other key groups of people.

Flags of Valor on Art Hill, September, 2021

Mayor Clement stated that the Manchester/regional team signups are around 25 to 30 people for the 20th anniversary of 9/11 at Art Hill. He expects to have between 35 and 40 people signed up as volunteers for the dog tag/photo compilation event. Kay Bell said several people from the Auxiliary signed up. It will take place beginning mid-July.

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. Kat Schien said that she extended the deadline to April 22 at noon because of a few last-minute requests. Right now, there are about 15 people interested in displaying banners.

Installation at Veterans Memorial Park

Bonnie Krueger asked if she may proceed in ordering the plaques for the Veterans Memorial. With approval from Mike C and Larry Perney, she will contact Denny at Allegiant Awards to start the process. Bills will be sent to Larry. Bonnie will also find out what the backing will be so that Kat may start working on how they would be affixed to the bricks.

Veteran families' scholarships for summer programming

After lengthy discussion, it was decided to continue with the 50/50 scholarship match for Veterans seeking assistance, which is in line with the PLAY scholarships the city offers. There is \$500 budgeted for Veterans. We can make adjustments if necessary, especially if a family requests 75/25 help. However, it is valuable to have them contribute some money to make them more accountable to use the discounted program. Westley Moore agreed to try to compile a local list of Manchester Veterans. Bonnie suggested asking our Veteran police officers if they know of area Veterans as well, particularly the younger men and women with families.

Veterans tent at Manchester's 4th of July and Homecoming events

A tent in the same location as past years was recommended at both events. The goal is to connect with Veterans, whether previously identified or newly identified. Megan Huether suggested that if a Veterans resource event has a date planned, we can share that information at the tents, as well as, speak about our other events, like the banner program.

Recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Ladies Auxiliary from American Legion Post 208

The recognition event will be on May 19 at 1 p.m. Mayor Clement will read the proclamation. City staff, such as Larry Perney and Alderman Marilyn Ottenad will be in attendance. This is to be done via Zoom.

Additional Topics:

- Mayor Clement said that a local Eagle Scout candidate Michael Ludwig created a flag receptacle at the Justice Center. Because Officer Matt Ahal knows how to properly dispose of retired flags, which is done with a girl scout troop, they will be responsible for the disposal. Kay Bell said the Ladies Auxiliary can also help with disposal if there is an overwhelming response.
- Julie Nguyen suggested collecting personal care items at events where the Commission is meeting, such as celebration events, like Memorial Day, Independence Day and Homecoming. Megan added that doing an ongoing collection for personal care items for the Veterans Community Project is worthy, too. Mike said he would talk with Circle Of Concern and Loaves & Fishes. The VA hospital is another good place to donate the care items.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Veterans Commission will be on Tuesday, May 18 at 4:30 p.m. Bonnie asked that meetings be held any other time than the first and third Wednesdays because of covering the city of Ellisville for *West Newsmagazine*.

Adjournment

At 5:30 the meeting was unanimously adjourned.