

CITY OF MANCHESTER MEETING OF THE VETERANS COMMISSION

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

A meeting of the Veterans Commission of the City of Manchester, Missouri was held at 5 p.m. on the 17th day of May 2023, at the Justice Center Conference Room, 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. Bill Pinkston
Mr. Bob Bell
Mr. Bud Niebling
Commander Sam Fletcher
Mr. Bob Whaley, guest

Introduction/Welcome

Kay called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. The minutes of the April 18, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved for Justin Klocke to post on the City of Manchester website. A brief introduction to our guest Bob Whaley was made.

City Updates

The new City Hall renovations are ahead of schedule with the expectation for completion to be mid to late June. All permits have been completed. Currently, there is a lot of exterior work being done. The City is going through old documents to prepare for moving.

The Annexation educational efforts continue with community engagement and three other sub-teams. A survey is being mailed to all area residents. Megan stressed inviting members of the Board to attend community events to answer any questions they may have. The property tax bill will go down if the areas are annexed.

Recent storms caused residents to have stormwater issues, which the City is hoping to address by securing state aid and through the Manchester CARES program.

Harugari Cemetery (Civil War Veterans) Event

The event sponsored by Sons of Union Veterans was held and by all accounts appeared to be a well-attended and received event. More improvements to the cemetery have been planned.

Memorial Day planning update

Final details were secured for the Memorial Day event. Bud will present the City's wreath. Hanna Woods Cub Scout 781 is secured for leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Bonnie will give final comments and thanks. The past speeches will be sent to her as a guideline. Mayor

Mike invited 5 or 7 WWII veterans and would like to mention thanks to our Koreans, Vietnam and Gulf War Vets, including active duty and reservists. The walk through is Thursday, May 25 at 10 a.m. Bonnie will meet with the Mayor separately at 11:30 that day. Mike asked that Bud hang the flyer at the Legion.

Hometown Heroes

After a big snafu by the printing company, the hanging of the banners is delayed. The City hopes to hang them by Memorial Day.

4th of July Tent

As last year, the tent will include a free hot dog or beverage, along with information for Veterans. Kat will also have a craft out for the kids. The Bells plan to work the 6 pm to 8 pm shift and Bud will work from 4 pm to 6 pm. At least one other volunteer is needed.

Introduction of Bob Whaley

Bob is the son of a POW in North Korea. Bob explained the story and said that his dad's remains have not been recovered, although DNA advancements make it hopeful to get them back during Bob's lifetime (Or his daughter's). Unfortunately, North Korea is not cooperating although they have a general idea of where his remains would be found.

Veterans' Mental Health Initiative in 2023

The Veterans Community Project will have its mental health event on May 18 from 8 to noon. Megan and Bonnie expressed an interest in supporting them through a pre-scheduled workday that we do as a Commission. They are onto some beautifying projects. Bonnie and Megan will work on connecting with VCP to see what is available.

Other Initiatives and local assistance

The H.E.R.O.E.S. Care food drive is up and running from May 15 to June 9 at all the regular collection sites. Bud will post a flyer at the Legion.

Bonnie suggested collecting for the Veterans Community Project at some time in the future depending on their needs.

Next Meeting

The next meeting date is scheduled for Tuesday, June 27 via Zoom. Ruth will take notes since Bonnie is not available on this date.

Adjournment

At 6:10 p.m. the meeting was unanimously adjourned.