

CITY OF MANCHESTER

MEETING OF THE VETERANS COMMISSION

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

A meeting of the Veterans Commission of the City of Manchester, Missouri was held at 4:30 p.m. on the 18th day of June 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
Parks, Recreation and Arts Director Kat Schien
Mr. Bob Bell

Introduction/Welcome

Kay Bell called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. Mayor Mike Clement made the motion to approve the Minutes of the May 18 meeting and Bob Bell 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: Debriefed

Mike declared the event a tremendous, almost perfect, success, Kay agreed and said her grandkids enjoyed it. Megan Huether suggested a table before and after the event so that we can get to know some of the attendees, who are on the periphery of the event, but may be great partners for the city efforts. It would be nice to meet family members, too, like Kay and Bob's grandkids. It was suggested to have nametags or to introduce key people at next year's event. Bonnie suggested having a wreath for the South High individuals who will have their names at the Veterans Park.

Flags of Valor on Art Hill, September, 2021

Mayor Clement stated that the Manchester/regional team signups were capped at 102 members, with the final couple being parents of an individual who died at a training exercise, but did not serve in combat. Mike said that some flag teams were already working, but they do not have the dog tags and photos for us yet. Larry Perney is beginning to prepare the second floor of City Hall to see how we might use of the space the most efficiently. No dates have been selected for working, but Mike said as that information becomes available, he will arrange for a meeting or two to organize. The website is flagsofvalorstl.com.

Following the event at Art Hill, Manchester is tasked with folding and preparing for shipment 300 of the flags to Gold Star families. This is something the younger kids can help with. We will solicit help from local Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to help fold. There will be a small ceremony so that we can teach our younger kiddos the importance of this task.

Hometown Heroes Banner Program

Tremendously positive response with the program. It was confirmed by Kat Schien that those individuals who are displaying banners will be given the opportunity to fly their banners again for a nominal fee. In January, the banner program will open up for new enrollees. There are potentially other poles for additional banners, such as at South High, the North side of Manchester and at the Highlands. This will allow for program growth. For maximum viewing, it was determined that keeping one banner per pole was best.

Installation at Veterans Memorial Park

The plates are due to ship on June 23. At that time, we can coordinate a time to hang them. Megan and Mike discussed the possibility of either a small solo installation celebration or combining it with another established one. Nothing was firmly decided.

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

The goal is to connect with Veterans, whether previously identified or newly identified. Perhaps offering them a free sandwich or drink may be the way to encourage them to stop by this tent. Mike said he needs just a few additional volunteers while the table is available from 4:15 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. it is prior to fireworks display. He may get volunteers from the Flags of Valor list of volunteers.

Additional Topics:

- Bonnie will forward a video from Facebook from Rockwood's Eureka High. It is the signing ceremony from individuals committing to joining the military after graduation. Bonnie checked with Dr. Aitch at South and she likes the idea for the future. Bonnie had also approved Parkway about a special recognition at graduations, but the idea was never finalized because of the pandemic.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Veterans Commission in July is cancelled because of the Flags of Valor work in July. The next traditional meeting will be August.

Adjournment

At 5:25 p.m. the meeting was unanimously adjourned.