

CITY OF MANCHESTER

MEETING OF THE VETERANS COMMISSION

Wednesday, June 22, 2022

A meeting of the Veterans Commission of the City of Manchester, Missouri was held at 4:30 p.m. on the 22nd day of June 2022, in the library of the Parkway School District, 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

Parks Director Kat Schien

Ms. Ruth Baker

Mr. Bob Bell

Mr. Bill Pinkston

Mr. James Francis

Ms. Michelle Doyle, guest

Ms. Angie Pappas-Muyco, principal-elect

Introduction/Welcome

Kay Bell called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. The Minutes of the May, 2022 meeting was unanimously approved for Justin Klocke to post on the City of Manchester website.

Michelle Doyle, an unincorporated resident in the Ballwin area, attended the meeting to be introduced to the principal as the new Freedom Memorial Wall liaison. She has an incoming junior and a upcoming younger child. Bonnie also introduced incoming principal Angie Pappas-Muyco, who has previously served as an assistant principal at South for six years. She worked in tandem with Dr. Aitch and was very involved in the planning and execution of the Veterans Day recognition held at the Freedom Memorial Wall in 2016.

Freedom Memorial Wall

Bonnie was able to explain the project in detail beginning with when she took it over in fall of 2014. She began by correcting about 20 incorrectly spelled names, grad years and/or branches of service. With the help of school provided lists and the recruitment center and referrals from other veterans who already appear on the wall, Bonnie was able to add about another 130 people. The special recognition plaque at the Wall includes the same individuals who appear on plaques at the Veterans Park. Bonnie had hoped to be hired by Parkway to start military walls at the other high schools, but it was never acted upon. The final piece of this project is a collection of stories/photos of some of the men and women who appear on the wall.

Megan is wondering if (a) photo(s) could be donated from the Flags of Valor event to tie in with the PTSD flag donated to the school that was flown at the 2021 event to honor the men and women on the South wall who died by suicide.

Flags of Valor Photo exhibit

The Flags of Valor exhibit will continue to be open in the Justice Center board room through about July 4. Megan Huether and Bonnie Krueger accepted the invitation to speak at the official reception on June 3. Megan spoke about her adoption of the flag of fallen soldier Capt. Tamara Archuleta, USAF. Bonnie spoke her

involvement in sending out flags to the Gold Star families. Mayor Mike has received positive feedback from the event.

Memorial Day Event (May 30)

It was a wonderful event, with record-number of attendees. Participants and visitors alike appreciated the event. James suggested keeping the flow of the wreath ceremony moving, which will be an idea when it is planned again in 2023. Megan would like to buy a few more wreaths for the City as “backups” in case others need one to represent their loved one. Bonnie suggested going to Painted Tree between now and July 4 as it is the season to buy them, rather than commission them as she did.

As a thank you to the Parks department, the Veterans Commission hosted a luncheon to show appreciation for all the hard work they do behind the scenes. Angie Pappas-Muyco asked whether it could be held at 9 a.m. in the future. Mike said with all the work to set up, it may require a much earlier set up time for individuals.

Food Drive for Jefferson Barracks

Ending on June 10, the “Forces for Food” city-wide food drive was a success with about 20 banana boxes of canned and boxed food for Jefferson Barracks Food Pantry. This created a partnership moving forward, where we can support their collection efforts. Next on their agenda is Back to School items such as backpacks, notebooks, pencils, glue, crayons etc. Kay asked if it was possible to give JB a donation of items to show their support for non-veteran specific collections. Mike was unsure if we had money in this year’s budget.

July 4th Veterans Commission Tent

Mike confirmed that Kay and Bob Bell will work the 4-6 p.m. shift on 4th of July and Justin and Bud will work 6-8 p.m. Justin, Mike and Megan will be there the entire time, although they will need to split their time between the City’s tent and the Veterans.

City Thank You for the Veterans Commission

Mike will check on available dates to host the thank the Commission for their work. It was decided October would be a good month.

DentalLink Free Day of Dentistry on July 1

Mike asked if Bud would make sure the Legion knows about this free opportunity. Additionally, Kay will make sure Commander Mike Beasley knows about the event as well.

Next Meeting

The July meeting is cancelled for a summer holiday. Mike Clement will send out proposed August dates, hoping to be a little earlier in the month than when we have recently been meeting.

Adjournment

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