



Veterans Commission

Meeting of June 27, 2023

A meeting of the Veterans Commission of the City of Manchester, Missouri was held at 5:00 p.m. on the 27th day of June, 2023, at the Justice Center Conference Room, for the transaction of such business that came before the Commission.

Present were:

Mayor Mike Clement
Alderman Megan Huether
President Kay Bell
City Administrator Justin Klocke
Director of Parks, Recreation and Arts Kat Schien

Ms. Ruth Baker
Mr. Bob Bell
Mr. Bill Pinkston
Mr. Bud Niebling

Introduction/Welcome/Approval of Minutes

President Kay Bell called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. The Minutes of the May 17, 2023 meeting was unanimously approved for City Clerk Michelle Melugin to post on the City of Manchester website.

City Updates

Mayor Clement stated that City individuals are in the midst of working very hard with the annexation efforts. Creative Entourage, a marketing agency, is inviting residents of the unincorporated areas to open houses. Creative Entourage undertook survey work in the unincorporated areas to determine what questions or concerns the residents had.

Work on the new City Hall continues, with most work being done inside at this time. There is a need to get enough bricks to finish off the outside lower level, but it is difficult to find enough bricks to match the original ones used on the building. The plan is to have an open house mid to late October, and all Boards and Commissions will be invited.

Director Kat Schien reported that season passes sold are about as normal; daily admissions are up. There are also swim lessons, concerts, the car show and day camps. The City has had good luck keeping seasonal staff. The pool will be closing during the weekdays only, effective the second week of August.

Hometown Heroes Banners Update

Director Kat Schien reported that all is going well. The new banners have been received and have been installed to replace those originally done incorrectly. There will be a ceremony again on Veterans Day. Since some of the banners are placed at Parkway South High School, it would be desirable to have some banners of students from the school who are Hometown Heroes.

Mid-Year Veterans Commission Budget Report

City Administrator Justin Klocke reported that so far less than \$700 has been spent out of the \$5,400 allocated. He said upcoming expenses will include the Veterans Breakfast and an appreciation dinner for the Commission. There was discussion about buying additional wreaths. The comment was made that the wreaths from last year were donated by the lady who made them.

Fourth of July Tent

Bud Niebling and Justin Klocke will be covering the tent from 4 pm until 6 pm, and Kay and Bob Bell will be covering the tent from 6 pm until 8 pm. Food will be available at the Lions tent free for veterans and the area will be set up like a food court. A list of veterans visiting the Commission's tent will be kept.

2023 Homecoming Booth

This year's Homecoming theme will be "Out of this World". People need to sign up to work a couple hours. Also, there will be an Honor Flight booth and a veteran-owned booth. Kay Bell, now the new President of the Legion Auxiliary, suggested inviting recruiters, and stated it would be desirable to have a booth in that area for recruiting. Alderman Megan Huether will contact the recruiters office.

Other Initiatives and Local Assistance

The food drive for H.E.R.O.E.S. Care has ended now. The West County Newsmagazine had a recent photo with Deputy Clerk Cinnamon Mullins handing food off to H.E.R.O.E.S. Care. The next issue of the West Newsmagazine had a photo of the Special Olympics event, emphasizing the Jeff Ottenad Memorial leg of the Torch Run, with Jason Ottenad carrying the torch at the beginning, and the torch was handed off to appropriate first responders along the way.

Regarding the Mental Health Initiative, the individuals from the Kaufman Fund are busy right now, so that effort will be postponed for a little while.

The City Hall Open House is planned for October. There was a discussion about having a Veterans Commission booth to learn of and identify veterans.

Upcoming Meeting Date

The members of the Commission came to a consensus to have a one-month break during the month of July. The next meeting date will be Tuesday, August 22 at 5 pm in person, tentatively at the new City Hall.

Adjournment

At 6:01 p.m., there being no further business to be discussed at this time, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth E. Baker, Acting Secretary