

Tinley Park Veteran's Commission

Minutes of the January 8, 2024 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 7:15 p.m. housekeeping items for the good of the order were announced. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

P=Present / E=Excused / A=Absent

P - Doug Rassmussen - Chairman	P - Colleen Sullivan, Trustee Liaison
P - Roxane Tyssen-Secretary	A - Pat Carr, Staff Liaison
P - Robert Bullard -US Sub Vets	P - Fred Cagle – VFW Commander
P - Robert Colby	P - Mark Ethridge
A - Manuel Gonzalez, Marine Corps League	P - Bruce Haffner
P - Chris Hansley-VFW Aux. Pres.	P - Jimmy Hunter
P - Norm Pestlin	P - Mike Rowan, Commander Amer. Legion
P - Georges Sanon	A - Greg Trainor (Assoc.)
P - Paul Windish	A - Ken Wrezzes (Assoc.)

Moment of silence for President Jimmy Carter was observed.

Minutes of the last meeting:

- The November 6, 2024 minutes were distributed, Chris Hansley made the motion to approve, Georges Sanon seconded, the November 2024 minutes were approved.

Remarks by Trustee Liaison:

- Trustee Sullivan updated the commission on the goings-on in Tinley Park:
 - The tentative opening for Teehans is scheduled for Sunday, March 9, this is the same day as the Irish Parade. The Durbin's Restaurant portion will have limited service
 - Road closures and construction projects were touched upon.

Static Display for Veterans Parkway:

- No news from TACOM.
- The tank will be painted in the spring as weather allows. We are hoping that we can reach out to the boy scouts to see if they can help with the restoration/remediation under supervision.
- Chairman Rassmussen is making a point to attend occasional Park District meetings. This will hopefully work to the commissions benefit so that there can be some kind of recognition for veterans at the new park property.

Education in Art in Public Places:

- Bruce Haffner talked to Daniel Marsen, the Veterans Program Coordinator for Orland Park, they are letting us put up a display in their Village Hall.

Correspondence:

- There was no correspondence.

Ongoing Business:

- Veterans Day Recap:
 - Everything went well.
 - The changes in the seating worked out well and there was a railing not only on the stairs but all around the stage as well. The two requests will remain for future events.
- VFW turned in some invoices that have not been paid. Roxane will look into these.

New Business:

- The VFW will be celebrating its 125th anniversary nation-wide. The commission would like to request that a proclamation from the Village be done to recognize this.
- The commission approved the payment of the invoice for the patches for the color guard.
- Commissioner Rasmussen queried the commission regarding doing a recognition for BG Patrick E Rea at either Memorial Day or Veteran's Day.
 - Currently there is no guest speaker scheduled for Memorial Day 2025.
 - The commission discussed ideas for this recognition.
 - After the event, a hot luncheon will be served and the historical society will bring some of his items for display for people to view.
- For Memorial Day 2026, Chris Hansley spoke to Al Lynch and he will be our guest speaker. He does not accept payments for speaking engagements but does ask that donations be made to his foundation.

REPORTS:

- Report from the VFW:
 - The AUX is looking to have a craft fair March 30th.
 - AVMRA/AUX hosted 50 recruits for Christmas. Everyone had a great time.
 - Queen of Hearts is getting up there in funds.
 - There was a food drive that resulted in donations to food banks in Tinley Park.
 - The kids Christmas party went very well.
 - Fish Fry starts in March with Lent.
 - On Saturday, April 19th there will be a blood drive.
- Report from the American Legion:
 - The Post hosted 50 sailors for Christmas. They also had a great time.
 - Queen of Hearts is up to around \$4,000 and the kitchen is open, and food is being served. The horses are still being raced as well.

Announcements:

- Georges Sanon discussed the Fairness Act that was Social Security Administration signed and passed on 1.5.2025.
- Post 9/11 and Montgomery GI Bill implementation changes are being made. This should allow for longer periods of time that will be covered for tuition.
 - Transfer eligibility was also mentioned.

Comments from the public:

- There were no comments.

Chairman Rasmussen made the motion to adjourn, Norm Pestlin moved, and Jimmy Hunter seconded. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 7 p.m. in the Kallsen Center.

*The military Banner Program can be found here:

https://www.tinleypark.org/news_detail_T5_R241.php