

Tinley Park Veteran's Commission

Minutes of the November 12, 2025

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 7:03 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 - Dr. Doug Rasmussen, DC - Chairman

P - Roxane Tyssen-Secretary

A - Robert Bullard - US Sub Vets

P - Mark Ethridge

P - Chris Hansley-VFW Aux. Pres.

P - Norm Pestlin

P - Paul Windish

P - Fred Cagle – VFW Commander (ex-officio)

P - Mike Rowan, Commander Amer. Legion (ex-officio)

P - Colleen Sullivan, Trustee Liaison

A - Pat Carr, Staff Liaison

P - Robert Colby

E - Bruce Haffner

E - Jimmy Hunter

P - Georges Sanon

Minutes of the last meeting:

- Minutes from September 10, 2025, meeting was distributed. Norm Pestlin made a motion to approve as amended. Paul Windish seconded, all approved. Minutes approved.

Remarks by Trustee Liaison:

- Trustee Sullivan reviewed upcoming events in the Village. She also announced the Apple Chevrolet Toys for Tots event on December 13th. Trustee Sullivan mentioned that the Benches on the Avenue theme for 2026 is America's 250th and discussed some of the details for submitting bench designs, etc.

Static Display for Veterans Parkway:

- No progress is reported.

Education in Art in Public Places:

- There is no report for this meeting.

Correspondence:

- Roxane Tyssen made a mention that the invitations for the Village holiday dinner for commissioners / volunteers have been mailed.

Ongoing Business:

- All Service Breakfast Recap –
 - Next year we need to get the word out earlier.
 - There were only 54 attendees, but more had registered for the event. There were a lot of no-shows (approx. 15 no-shows).
- Veteran's Day Recap –

- The benediction was very political. The commission may need to look at how to set parameters for future events.
- Time limits are suggested for the guest speaker but not for the benediction, going forward that may need to be mentioned.
- Trustee Sullivan would like to have a way to acknowledge any employees who have served / are serving. She mentioned that it would be nice to have their names in the brochure, however having those names on the Village website only and in social media is also an option.
- Railings should be added to be all around the stage.
- The band needs to pay attention to the ceremony when they are not playing and not to be on their phones.

New Business:

- America's 250th Anniversary celebrations were discussed. Chairman Rasmussen will be meeting with the mayor to determine how the commission and veteran's organizations can be involved and in what capacity.
- Roxane Tyssen mentioned that she has a contact through the senior center who is looking to put something together to recognize native American's contributions during WWII, specifically the Code Talkers and what they contributed to aid the Allies in winning WWII.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Flag over the capital –
 - The Village just received the flag back. It will need to be cleaned, folded, and then framed before it can be presented to the family who requested it.
- Chris Hansley mentioned getting future guest speakers (Allen Lynch) for 2026 events.
- Trustee Sullivan asked about the soldier who is returning back home to Tinley Park before he redeploys again.
- Honorary Street Signs –
 - Follow up was discussed; the commission needs to know what the procedure was for previous honorary street signs.
- Chairman Rasmussen discussed the Village Board Meeting to present the plaque to the Victor J. Andrew High School's student council for the work they do on the veteran's appreciation breakfast.

REPORTS:

- Report from the VFW:
 - Food and blood drives that are coming up on the weekend following the meeting were discussed.

Announcements:

- Mike Rowan mentioned that 2025 is the 11th year that the Lockport Township high school does an annual dinner to honor veterans; this is open to any veteran's and their family members.
- The Great Lakes recruit dinner(s) at the VFW and American Legion were discussed.
- Chris Hansley gave a hearty 'thank you' to everyone who assisted with the All-Service Breakfast.

- The VFW will be updating their website to include honor guard information and other patriotic items.

Adjournment:

Chairman Rasmussen asked for a motion to adjourn, Chris Hansley made the motion, Georges Sanon seconded, all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 14, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Kallsen Center.