

Tinley Park Veteran's Commission

Minutes of the October 8, 2025

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 7:01 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	E - Colleen Sullivan, Trustee Liaison
P - Roxane Tyssen-Secretary	A - Pat Carr, Staff Liaison
E - Robert Bullard - US Sub Vets	P - Robert Colby
P – Mark Ethridge	P - Bruce Haffner
P - Chris Hansley-VFW Aux. Pres.	P - Jimmy Hunter
P - Norm Pestlin	P - Georges Sanon
P - Paul Windish	P - Fred Cagle – VFW Commander (ex-officio)
A – Mike Rowan, Commander Amer. Legion (ex-officio)	

Remarks by Chairman Rasmussen:

- The commission meets to discuss matters regarding the Veteran's Commission.
- There will now be a Tinley Park police officer present at all Veteran's Commission Meetings until otherwise stated.
- Those that should be seated at the 'table' include: commissioners, ex-officio's, elected officials, Village officials, and the recording secretary. All others (guests) will be seated in the section of chairs set up behind the table; they will be recognized at the point in the agenda when the public is allowed to speak.
 - They will be allotted a speaking time of 5 minutes and will be timed by the Chairman and the Secretary.
 - Time may be extended if the Chairman approves.

Minutes of the last meeting:

- Minutes from October 8, 2025 meeting were distributed. Norm Pestlin made a motion to approve as amended. Paul Windish seconded, all approved. Minutes approved.

Remarks by Trustee Liaison:

- Trustee Sullivan was not in attendance; there were no remarks.

Static Display for Veterans Parkway:

- No report for this meeting.

Education in Art in Public Places:

- Bruce Haffner discussed the upcoming display at the Orland Park Library. It will run from October through November 2025 and will be on military food.

Correspondence:

- There was a notification of a deployed resident soldier, Petty Officer Third Class, Andrew Blasco. His father submitted the paperwork and was present. The commission recognized Andrew for his service.

Ongoing Business:

- All Service Breakfast –
 - A quick review was given of the program and timeline.
 - Chairman Rasmussen stated he would like for all commissioner who are available to attend the next Village Board Meeting to stand up during the Public Comments to thank all the individuals and businesses who have donated to the All Service Breakfast for door prizes.
- Veteran's Day –
 - Reminder that the topic will focus on women in the military.
 - Chris Hansley stated the band from Central Middle School will provide the music portion of the ceremony.
 - Honor Guard will be coming from the VFW Post. Nick Suleyman, who is in charge of the VFW Honor Guard, stated that the event is covered.
 - Col. Seaman clock award and the organization award will be presented to Roger Barton and the Student Council of Victor J. Andrew High School respectively.
 - Additional program details were discussed.
 - A luncheon at the VFW will be provided.

New Business:

- Flag over the Capital –
 - Doug has been in discussions with Village Hall.
Per Village Hall:
 - The Village will oversee the process of requesting a flag that has flown over the capital and then once returned to Tinley Park will then be flown over the Oak Park Avenue train station/Zabrocki Plaza.
 - The flag will then be returned to the Commission who will see that it is dry cleaned (the commission needs to take it to the dry cleaner).
 - The Commission will then procure a display case and prepare it to be presented to the recipient (who should have been a current resident of the Village, which the Village will have to verify).
 - The Chairman is requesting that the Commission approve a motion to:
 - Request that the Village handle the dry cleaning (because the past dry cleaner has now become a franchise for a larger corporation and is no longer individually/family owned). Any costs should be charged to the Village credit card and then charged back to the Commission in lieu of someone being reimbursed.
 - Request that the Village purchase a case, again on a Village credit card and charged back to the Commission. This would also ensure that the purchase is tax deductible.
 - Once the flag is back from being cleaned, the flag and the box should be returned to the commission to be folded for proper display and then the flag should be presented to the family at a Village Board Meeting UNLESS, the

recipient is a member of VFW 2791 or American Legion 615; if they belong to a post, then the Post should handle the presentation at one of their post meetings.

- IF the recipient resides outside of the Village, the Commission will have the flag mailed to them.
- Chris Hansley mentioned that if the requestor may also want the flag presented to them at their residence and that this should also be an option due to the emotional component.
- Chairman Rasmussen also would like to have the form changed to provide a selection so that the requestor can decide how the flag can be presented back.
- Discussions on whether there is a line item in our budget to cover these costs.

The motion:

- To have Chairman Rasmussen approach the Village to request that the Village handle the process from request to purchase of display case/box.
Georges Sanon made the motion as stated above, Mark Ethridge seconded, all in favor, motion carries.
- Change the application to add a section for them to indicate as to how the flag will be presented back to them; at a board meeting, at a Veteran's Commission meeting, at a service organization (example: VFW/American Legion), returned to the Commission to be mailed, or for them to pick it up at Village Hall. Georges Sanon made the motion as stated above, Norm Pestlin seconded, all in favor, motion carries.
- Postage donation to cover Cookies for the Troops by Apple Chevrolet
 - The care packages will be individual snacks, small decorations, hot chocolate packets, etc. Last year the cost of the mailing cost \$10,000+. Last year the Commission donated \$200. The Chairman requested that we up to \$500 and the VFW will match the donation. Chris Hansley made the motion to make a \$500 donation, Jimmy Hunter seconded, all in favor, motion carried.
 - A care package will also be sent to the deployed Petty Officer mentioned earlier in the meeting.
- Commissioner Qualifications:
 - A motion was made to change the Commission by-laws to state that the Chairman must be a Tinley Park resident, that there can be Vice-Chair to be appointed to a current commissioner (also a Tinley Park resident) and to allow the Commission to have up to TWO Commissioners of the Commission to be non-residents. Georges Sanon made the motion, Paul Windich seconded, all approved, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

- KIA Memorial –
 - The Chairman, Doug Rasmussen, Bruce Haffner and Donna Framke, Marketing Director, will schedule a meeting to discuss options / brainstorm for a future memorial.
- Chairman Rasmussen has gotten Apple Chevrolet to agree to donate the use of three vehicles (red, white, blue) to ride in the Village's Independence Day / 250th Anniversary and the St. Patrick's Day parades. This will require magnets to be made for the vehicles.

REPORTS:

- Report from the VFW:
 - Veteran's Day falls on Tuesday, their monthly meeting will follow the luncheon.
 - There may not be a Christmas for recruits this year at the VFW (the Legion has been contacted regarding this though). Discussions were had with regards to the changes that have been made at Great Lakes.
- VFW Axillary:
 - November 8th, craft fair
 - November 15th, fall blood drive (appointments are required)

Announcements:

- The Woody Williams Foundation Gold Star Monument will be dedicated on October 18 in Springfield.
- Toys for Tots, Will County Region, has made announcements for collections.
- Wind Creek Casino will have an event for veterans on Veteran's Day, November 11, 1-3 p.m.
- George Blasco, father of the deployed soldier, mentioned that his son will be remobilized to a different location; he asked that we hold off on any care packages but a letter would be welcomed.
- Officer Greg King has offered a donation to purchase the display case for the flag for costs up to \$100.

Comments from the public:

Chairman Rasmussen asked for a motion to adjourn, Jimmy Hunter made the motion, Paul Windich seconded, all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Kallsen Center.