

Tinley Park Veteran's Commission

Minutes of the January 14, 2026

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 7:00 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
P - Robert Bullard - US Sub Vets	E - Robert Colby
P - Mark Ethridge	P - Bruce Haffner
P - Chris Hansley-VFW Aux. Pres.	E - Jimmy Hunter
P - Norm Pestlin	P - Georges Sanon
A - Paul Windish	
P - Fred Cagle – VFW Commander (ex-officio)	
A - Mike Rowan, Commander Amer. Legion (ex-officio)	

Minutes of the last meeting:

- Minutes from November 12, 2025 meeting were read. Jimmy Hunter made a motion to approve as amended. Chris Hansley seconded, all approved. Minutes approved.

Remarks by Trustee Liaison:

- Chairman Rasmussen read remarks for Trustee Sullivan: Benches on the Avenue theme is *Party in the USA*, a variety of patriotic events were reviewed and will take place throughout the year to recognize America's 250th anniversary.
- Roxane Tyssen read a text Trustee Sullivan sent to herself and Doug. She will have an update at the February meeting with more details on the events and the upcoming Irish Day Parade. Parade applications are due by February 6th.

Static Display for Veterans Parkway:

- No progress is reported.

Education in Art in Public Places:

- Bruce Haffner has no updates.

Correspondence:

- There was a letter from the Orland Park Veterans Commission thanking the Commission for its support of the veteran's event that Apple Chevrolet promoted.

Ongoing Business:

- America's 250th:

- The possibility of having the commission sponsor a bench was brought up. These benches are sponsored. The commissioners had a conversation about the steps that would need to be taken for this sponsorship and the artist renditions.
- Additional discussions were had regarding a permanent commutative bench would be located and what the cost will be.
- The celebrations on July 4th will be combined effort on behalf of the Village and the Tinley Park Park District.

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:

- Memorial Day:
 - Mandy Berry will do the National Anthem.
 - Chris Hansley said that Alan Lynch will put us down for Memorial Day 2027 as the guest speaker.
 - She has another guest speaker in mind for this year's event. Virginia Narsete, retired USAF Master Sgt. and a member of the Daughters of the Revolution. She has us "penciled" in, Chris is awaiting her confirmation.
 - Chris will reach out to the Community Band for their participation and confirm their cost.
 - Speaker for the benediction was discussed.
- Doug Rasmussen is still working on the KIA memorial location, Gen. Patrick E. Rea Veteran's Plaza is the current place being discussed.
- Doug Rasmussen announced that the Flag Over the Capital program has ended.
- Veterans Commission Events:
 - Railing around the stage will be requested at all events that require a stage.
 - Doug has spoken with Jason regarding the band members paying attention during the event.
 - Time limits and topics for the benediction and guest speakers were mentioned.
- Open commissioner and associate commissioner positions were discussed.
- Honorary Street Signs:
 - Roxane reached out to neighboring communities regarding their processes for honorary street signs. She heard back from Orland Park and Frankfort and they are interested in anything we come up with.
 - Examples of requirements to have an honorary street sign were given.
- Doug Rasmussen discussed what the commission thought of collecting donations like furniture that can be brought to an organization that assists getting veterans reestablished.

REPORTS:

- Report from the VFW:

- Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy essay winners were mentioned.
- A motion was made for sponsorship of the VFW's Cruise Nights t-shirts. Jimmy Hunter made the motion, Chris Hansley seconded it, all were in favor. The motion was approved.
- VFW Aux:
 - April 18th blood drive.
 - Golf outing will be on August 1st.
- American Legion:
 - The Post had 50 recruits for Christmas dinner gathering. The VFW helped sponsor the event.
 - There was an organization who normally sponsored 300 recruits and canceled 5 days before their event.
- Sub Mariners:
 - Quarterly burial on January 15th at Lincoln Cemetery.
 - On Tuesday, February 3rd, submarines will be going down the Illinois River.
- Nick Suleyman:
 - January 23rd, Lockport Township will have their annual veteran's dinner and recognition ceremony.

Announcements:

- Doug Rasmussen attended the recognition luncheon at Andrew High School. The Commission's plaque was presented to their student council.

Public Comments:

- Mr. Blasco was in attendance and again thanked the commission for having his son and their family attend the commissioners holiday dinner where his son's service was recognized.
- A thank you was given to Officer King for his presence at the meeting.

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, February 12, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Kallsen Center.