

Tinley Park Veteran's Commission

Minutes of the March 11, 2026

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 7:02 p.m. Housekeeping items for the good of the order were announced. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

A moment of silence was given for the soldiers who have recently lost their lives.

P=Present / E=Excused / A=Absent

P - Dr. Doug Rasmussen, DC - Chairman	P - 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
A - Steve Noodwang	P - Norm Pestlin
P - Georges Sanon	P - Nick Suleyman (Assoc. Commissioner)
E - Paul Windish	
P - Fred Cagle – VFW Commander (ex-officio)	
A - Mike Rowan, Commander Amer. Legion (ex-officio)	

Minutes of the last meeting:

- Minutes from the February 2026 meeting were read. Jimmy Hunter made a motion to approve as amended. Chris Hansley seconded, all approved. Minutes approved.

Remarks by Trustee Liaison:

Trustee Sullivan reported:

- A proposal was handed out for the KIA memorial. The proposal is from Site Design and is for the site design and came in at \$10,000. This does not include the memorial itself.
 - The commission pointed out the fact that where they are looking to put it would also involve Tinley Park Park District approval. This would involve an intergovernmental agreement.
 - Accessibility issues were discussed.
 - The hope is to continue to add memorials and equipment to the Veteran's Parkway area.
 - We are hoping to split the cost of the project between this year and next.
 - A motion was made by Georges Sanon to change the item in the current budget from the Equipment (static display) line item to read that it is now to be used for Equipment/Static Display/KIA memorial. Jimmy Hunter seconded. All in favor, motion carries.
 - A motion was made by Georges Sanon to allow for a PO to be issued, up to \$10,000 for the site design of the area. Chris Hansley seconded. All in favor, motion approved.
- The bench is coming along. Colleen and Mark Ethridge are working on it. The deadline to finish is April 27th.

Static Display for Veterans Parkway:

- Bruce Haffner is still doing some research on displays in other communities and locations.

Education in Art in Public Places:

- Nothing to report.

Correspondence:

- There was no correspondence to report.

Ongoing Business:

- Irish Day Parade Recap:
 - The only comment was that as the veterans were first in line, they waited the longest before the parade began.
 - The shorter turn off (at Subway) has hurt the food and drink sales at the VFW.
 - The veterans received some nice publicity coverage by the local newspapers.
 - Thank you's were given to Apple Chevrolet and Officer King.
- Memorial Day:
 - Preparations are coming along.
- Independence Day / July 4th Celebrations:
 - Celebrations between the park district and Village will be lasting approximately 3-days.
 - Marketing meets on the first Monday of the month, Trustee Sullivan will give the commission an update at the next meeting as to what the Village is planning.
- KIA Memorial:
 - It was confirmed that the 16 Tinley Park veterans who have been KIA will be named on the memorial.
- Honorary Street Signs:
 - On hold until we hear back from Steve Noodwang.

New Business:

- Nothing to report.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- If anyone needs a Veteran's Commission shirt, please see Trustee Sullivan. She will be putting in an order.

REPORTS:

- Report from the VFW:
 - The fish fry will go until April 2nd.
 - First annual chili cook off is this Sunday. There are 17 currently entered in the contest. Entry is \$10 and includes tastings, a bottle of water, and a ticket to vote on your favorite.
 - Cruise Nights will be happening again this summer.
 - A motion was made by Chris Hansley to have the Veteran's Commission mentioned on the t-shirts at a cost of \$250. Jimmy Hunter seconded, all in favor. Motion carried.
- VFW Aux:
 - April 18th blood drive.
 - Golf outing will be on August 1st at the Odyssey.

- American Legion:
 - The Polar Plunge was at the Legion this year. They were successful in so much as the attendees / supporters filled the hall. Tinley Park Progress also covered the event in their paper.

Announcements:

- Chairman Rasmussen thanked the commissioners who volunteered to drive.
- Roxane Tyssen distributed an updated form (it was also emailed to the commissioners) for the brick program. Specific questions should be deferred to Lisa Valley. Banners are for Tinley Park residents only.

Public Comments:

- Mr. Blasco updated the commission on his son. He has been promoted to E5 and is now with his new unit who is preparing for their next deployment.

Adjournment:

- Chairman Rasmussen asked for a motion to adjourn, Norm Pestlin made the motion, Chris Hansley seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Kallsen Center.