

**MINUTES OF THE HAMDEN VETERAN'S COMMISSION,
SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITY ROOM, MILLER COMPLEX,
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2010 AT 5:30 P.M.**

Commissioners Present: Mr. Conway, Mr. DiSorbo, Mr. Oakes, Mr. Ortoleva, Mr. Shultz

Mr. Slater, Mr. Weil

Absent: Mr. Laffin, Mr. McCarthy, Ms. Pavlis

Guests: Mr. Best, Ms. Parks

Approval of Minutes – September 14, 2010 – **APPROVED AS WRITTEN.**

American Warriors - Mr. Oakes reported they took 100 WWII veterans & guides to Washington. Mr. McCarthy was at Bradley Airport when they returned and said it was the most moving thing he'd ever seen. They have a band and young kids dressed in WWII outfits to welcome them back. There were many smiles and tears.

The next trip is scheduled for April and it was suggested that members of the HVC go to the airport to participate in welcoming them back home.

There were 10 veterans from Hamden. The total raised so far is up to \$6,200. Forms are available for those who wish to volunteer as escorts. Mr. Conway is on the list for April's trip.

Ms. Parks added that the pasta dinner/benefit held at the Elks was a huge success stating, "What a turnout. It was fantastic."

Honor Korean War Veterans - November 16th & 17th - Mr. Oakes reported that it is still on as far as he knows. It's scheduled for 3:30 p.m. at the Hamden High School Auditorium. Because of the number of Korean War Veterans it will be divided up into 2 days. KWW's should receive a letter from Susan Bysiewicz telling them which day to appear.

Veterans Day Ceremony - Sunday, November 7, 2010 - 11:00 a.m. - Elks Luncheon to follow. Ms. Parks informed the HVC that 45 blind veterans from West Haven are coming. She also spoke of 3 young veterans that just came in and her efforts to get donations of winter coats/jackets for the veterans. The HVC will send a press release regarding the donations of jackets with a drop-off location at the Government Center.

There was brief discussion on accommodating the 45 blind veterans at the ceremonies at the monument.

Wreaths Across America - Wednesday, December 8th at 10:00 a.m.

Election of Officers - Mr. Oakes opened the floor to nominations.

Mr. Conway nominated Mr. Oakes as Chairman of the HVC. Mr. Shultz seconded. There were no other nominations. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Oakes will continue to serve as Chairman of the HVC.

Mr. Slater informed the Commission that he would have to resign due to health reasons. He thanked the Commission for this year's parade stating it was "such an honor". Mr. Conway responded stating, "Our parade is where it is because of all your hard work over the years. It's OUR honor to have you there".

Mr. Oakes opened the floor to nominations.

Mr. Conway nominated Mr. Weil as Vice Chairman of the HVC. Mr. Slater seconded.

Mr. Oakes asked Mr. Conway if he would accept a nomination to serve as Vice Chair. Mr. Conway respectfully declined stating he felt that as a civilian member of the HVC, the honor should go to a veteran. There were no other nominations.

The vote was unanimous. Mr. Weil will serve as the Vice Chairman of the HVC.

Meeting Dates for 2011 - Ms. Gaiolini distributed a draft schedule for all to review and discuss. It was agreed that the HVC meetings be moved to the second Tuesday of the month. The May meeting shall be moved to the THIRD Tuesday because of the parade as done in previous years.

Freedom Park Clean Up - BSA Troop #604 - Freedom Park was dedicated in 1972 to the POW/MIAs of the Vietnam War. It was the first park dedicated to POW/MIAs in the state of CT. Mr. Oakes reviewed the history of the park. The Public Works Dept. has done a pretty good job keeping up the front of the park but in the back by the tree there's a lot of dead shrubbery & garbage. Boy Scout Troop #604 has volunteered to clean it up as project for their troop.

Mr. Oakes also noted that he would like to have a ceremony for the 40th Anniversary of

the Park.

Flag Pole by Pavillion - Mr. Conway reported that the lights are in. They're awaiting approval from the Town's electrician. They need Marvin to come in and do repairs to the gear inside. The HVC needs to determine the wording on the plaque for the flag pole. Mr. Ortoleva & Mr. Conway will work on the wording. It is possible we could be set for the dedication of the pole for Veterans Day.

Mr. Weil shared info regarding a Breakfast in Southington on the 13th. Guest speaker is Mari Eder. She was a Deputy at the Office of the Chief of Army Reserve and now is the Commander of a unit out in Utah. He also has a meeting tomorrow with Rosa DeLaura and General Shinseki (Chairman of VA Administration).

Ms. Parks informed the Commission she was selected as the Female Veteran Volunteer for the State of CT. She expressed her thanks to the HVC for their support.

Meeting Adjourned 6:25 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Deborah Gaiolini, Commission Clerk