

**MINUTES OF THE HAMDEN VETERAN'S COMMISSION,
SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITY ROOM, MILLER COMPLEX,
TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2011 AT 5:30 P.M.**

Commissioners Present: Mr. Conway, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Laffin, Mr. McCarthy, Mr. Oakes
Mr. Ortoleva, Ms. Pavlis, Mr. Shultz, Mr. Weil

Absent: Mr. Best, Mr. DiSorbo

Guests: Mr. McPhail

Approval of Minutes – January 11, 2011 – **APPROVED AS WRITTEN.**

Mr. Laffin introduced Matt McPhail. He is a senior at Hamden High School and a member of Eagle Troop 610. Mr. McPhail has been working with Columbus House Homeless Shelter for 10 years doing projects since he was very young – collecting cans & bottles, donations and or purchase of needed items. He recently spoke with the facilities manager at Harkness House (veterans homeless shelter). They need to build a 10'x10' utility shed to hold their lawn and maintenance equipment.

After speaking with Mr. Laffin about this project he thought “this is probably the perfect group of people to talk to about this subject because nobody is more a fan of veterans than you”. He is hopeful that the HVC might be willing to make a donation toward this project for material costs. He gave some further details pertaining to the construction of this shed.

Mr. Johnson offered his carpentry assistance. Mr. McPhail's father is a carpenter as well and they're working on developing the plans. In answer to Mr. Conway's question regarding projected costs, Mr. McPhail stated the lumber is about \$1200, safety equipment \$100, painting \$125 – total would be about \$1,500.00.

The HVC asked about other fundraising efforts, donations of materials, etc. Several members offered suggestions to Mr. McPhail as well as the possibility for a donation from the HVC.

Flag Pole and Plaque at Pavilion – Mr. Oakes distributed copies of the final wording for the plaque. It's been approved by Mr. Ortoleva and Nolan Monument. Mr. Conway apologized for not yet contacting the Mayor's office regarding LOCIP funds. Mr. Oakes will speak to Curt Leng.

VAD – MAY 27TH. That is the day Dan Levy wanted. Mr. Oakes will be meeting with Dan this week to start emailing the list of participants. Any new people would be helpful. Dori Freer (Sikorsky) will not be able to be there but she gave the name of the man who is head of that division. If we send a letter to him regarding VAD, he may be able to get us a Blackhawk helicopter (and speaker).

Mr. Ortoleva has the booklets on his computer. He will update the files and forward to Mr. Oakes. Mr. Johnson noted that he knows a woman who is a mechanic at Sikorsky and works only on the President's helicopter. She might be able to participate.

Regarding speakers, Mr. Oakes thought he could get the Vietnam Congressional Medal of Honor

winner, Sammy Davis. Don Weinbach informed him that Mr. Davis wants \$5,000 to speak and \$500 for expenses. Mr. Weil has a couple of people in mind. One is a female Rear Admiral who has been appointed Superintendent of the Coast Guard Academy. He will contact her and a couple of other generals as well.

There was brief discussion on “invites”. Mr. Weil then spoke on getting a Junior ROTC program in the Town of Hamden.

Memorial Day Parade – Mr. Conway stated she (Gerry Tobin) is sending out the applications. “The thing we need to do tonight is put in stone the Grand Marshals. The two suggestions at the last meeting were John Carusone and Gerry Tobin”.

Mr. Conway made the motion to have John Carusone and Gerry Tobin as the Grand Marshals. Mr. McCarthy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

Mr. Shultz asked for a list of those who have served as Grand Marshal. Mr. Oakes will ask Gerry to check her records.

Mr. Conway also reported that he saw Noreen Slater. For the St Patrick’s Day Parade, the corner at Church & Chapel is being named “Tom Slater Way”. She is doing well & very appreciative of the flag case. There was a brief discussion on bands.

Freedom Park – Mr. McCarthy stated that Jack Kennelly is no longer the head of Public Works. He will follow-up with Mr. Cesare in the near future. He did add that he’s stopped at the Rotunda 3 times to ask that they close the front doors (left open after hours). Mr. Oakes noted there are 2 names to be added to the Rotunda; John Gallagher and Ben Sklaver.

Discussion moved to Matt McPhail’s Eagle Scout Project. It was agreed the criteria has been met.

Mr. Conway made a motion that the HVC make a donation of \$300 for this project. Mr. Laffin seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

Meeting Adjourned 6:40 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Deborah Gaiolini, Commission Clerk