



Hamilton

MINUTES

Hamilton Veterans Committee

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

10:00 a.m.

City Hall – Room 192

Present: Chair: Bob Fyfe
Members: David Steckham, Bill Eisan, Councillors Merulla and Pasuta

Absent with Regrets: Gerry Rattray, Harry McEwen, Art Tompkins,

Also Present: Anna Bradford, Director, Tourism and Culture
Fern Viola, Resource
Councillor Brenda Johnson, Ward 11
Ted Arnold, Manager, Parking Operations and Maintenance
Jeff Baird, Commanding Officer LCC Cougar Cadets (Navy)
Rebecca Oliphant, Minute Taker, Staff Liaison, Tourism and Culture

Did not have quorum. Agenda items reviewed but no action taken.

CHAIR'S REMARKS: Remembrance of Fallen Comrades

Welcome Councillor Pasuta

1. **CHANGES TO AGENDA**
Item 5.3 Parking for Veterans in Hamilton – move to beginning of Agenda to accommodate staff schedules.
2. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**
None declared
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Steckham/Eisan)**
 - 3.1 Hamilton Veterans Committee Meeting Minutes, dated 11 February 2014.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Role & Function of Hamilton Veterans Committee

Members present reviewed the mandate/membership report to go to Emergency and Community Services from the HVC on May 12/14. Final approval to take place at April 8 meeting.

4.2 Fields of Honour

Update:

Remove references to 'regular permanent forces' as it devalues the service of those who have served in the militia/reserves. Add relevant consultation to report.

Final approval to take place at April 8 meeting.

4.3 Remembrance Day Information/Procedure Manual

Update: David Steckham

Background for development of manual – are we doing this way because we always have or is there a better way?

No forward motion. Jeff will provide contact information for cadets to Dave.

Manual will be on Veterans dropbox. Councillor Johnson would like it circulated to assist other groups.

4.4 Remembrance Day 2014

Garrison Parade – Sunday, November 9 – LIUNA Station

City Service – Tuesday, November 11 – City Hall

Staff person – Pam Mulholland, Cultural Projects Specialist

Staff has contacted LIUNA Station – should have a response early week of March 10.

Staff has confirmed City Hall forecourt and lobbies for November 11.

Decision needed – Temporary Cenotaph for laying wreaths

Staff will bring ideas back to committee in April, possible public art call or use of World War 1 Artillery pieces.

Councillor Johnson would like free HSR for Veterans attending the November 9 Garrison Parade LIUNA Station investigated.

Air cadets handle Glanbrook Remembrance Day Services.

4.5 Veterans Place at Gore Park - Gore Park Pedestrianization

Update: meeting held March 5 to determine themes for 9 glass enclaves. Plan is not to attempt to list the names of the dead. Words/short phrases that evoked memories/thought were discussed to develop themes. Important that those who stayed home to fight are given consideration in the themes.

Gore Park committee has done an amazing job. The cenotaph will be centred (squared up). A suggestion was made to use blocks for laying wreaths rather than crosses. Stakeholder/advisory group will meet again

in April. Public will be provided an opportunity to comment on the suggested themes / design.

4.6 Evaluation of Volunteer Committees

Staff will collect individual evaluations and put together in one submission for review by HVC at April 8 meeting.

5. STANDING ITEMS

5.1 BUDGET Review

Councillors requested coffee / tea be provided to HVC for their meetings at their expense as the HVC budget is used to host the City's Veterans events and commemorations.

- **Event Expense Review**

Estimated cost for November 9 Remembrance Day event \$9,000.

Estimated cost for November 11 Remembrance Day event \$8650.

Councillor Johnson may be able to speak to Canadian Warplane about fly-past costs.

5.2 WWI Anniversary Commemorations

At this time the HVC will host the re-installation of World War 1 plaque and wreath at City Hall immediately following the November 11 service.

5.3. Parking for Veterans in Hamilton

Guest: Ted Arnold, Manager, Parking Operations and Maintenance

Attachments: Citizen inquiry to Councillor Johnson

HVC Minutes Sep 11, 2012

Ted provided background – in 2009 Midland proposed implementing program of free parking for anyone with the Provincial Veterans license plate.

At that time, staff investigated the feasibility of implementing the program in Hamilton. Final outcome that any Veteran, 60 years or older, in Hamilton could receive a permit in conjunction with their Veterans plate to park in Municipal lots and at Municipal meters.

The Hamilton permit system was developed due to the Hamilton Municipal Parking Authority's (HMPS) concern about lost revenues if everyone with a Veterans plate could park for free in Hamilton.

HMPS's original recommendation that only World War 11 or Korean War veterans receive free parking was amended at committee by Councillors Powers and Merulla to any veteran 60 years of age.

Councillor Merulla stated this was the best compromise at the time. There was a significant amount of debate and his concern is that if the committee pushes the envelope they may jeopardize what is currently in place. Council may feel that decisions were not made on solid ground last time. The policy in place is the best case scenario given the need to be fiscally responsible.

Councillor Johnson appreciates that this has been dealt with previously but stated we have to be fair to all Veterans and she is willing to help out in any way necessary if the Committee wishes to open the issue.

Ted stated there were approx. 9700, active or retired Armed Forces personnel in Hamilton in response to Councillor Pasuta's question regarding the number of Veterans living in Hamilton.

Councillors reiterated their willingness to champion the issue in response to members statement that the City is spending tremendous amounts in core on Veterans Place for the dead, but are unwilling to spend for the living.

In response to questions from committee and Councillors,

Ted stated that the City has issued 286 permits this year for an estimated cost of \$16,000 to \$80,000 per year based on these numbers. There is potential for abuse as parking enforcement cannot determine if non-veterans are using the permit. Originally, eligibility for the city's permit shared criteria for a Veterans plate but now request something that proves status as a Veteran to prevent abuse.

The only cities participating in the program in 2009 when the original report went to committee were Burlington, Niagara Falls and St. Catharines. The information has not been updated since that time.

There are financial and other implications to the Business Improvement Areas (BIA) that need to be considered if free parking is offered to anyone with a Veterans Plate.

Councillors Pasuta and Merulla asked staff to draft a motion for them to take to GIC regarding free parking in the City of Hamilton for all Veterans with the provincial license plate.

Note: Councillor Merulla asked staff to request a formal response as to why Art Tompkin's parking ticket of January 14, 2014 cannot be refunded.

5.4 Upcoming Events

Decoration Day – Woodland Cemetery – Upper section – Sun, June 8

Today the HVC hosts a Memorial Service each year. At its beginning, Military units had picnics to decorate the graves of comrades.

The HVC is trying to raise the awareness of the military community within our community. The HVC felt a poster listing the Remembrance and commemorative events hosted by the HVC to be distributed at schools would be a start.

The HVC (Dave Steckham) also created a calendar that would list not only the HVC hosted events but those of any Veterans organization in Hamilton. The challenge is that organizations work in isolation and it is difficult to get the necessary information.

Councillor Johnson would like to see include mini Decoration Day events around the City included in any expansion. She is aware that St Paul's Anglican Church looks after the graves of the RAF airmen. She suggested the Federal gov't be approached to assist with the costs of posters/brochures.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 D-day – 70th Anniversary – June 6, 2014

Inquiry from Rev. Chisholm – is the City and Hamilton Veterans Committee planning anything to mark this anniversary?
It is too late to plan an event for this year. Investigate a Remembrance notice in the newspaper?

Investigate setting up the temporary cenotaph for Remembrance Day at City Hall as practice run monument for that day.

Fern reminded the committee that the Haida has a dinner each year.

6.2 Navy League Cadets

LT Jeff Baird, Commanding Officer, NLCC Cougar, Navy Cadets attended at the invitation of Councillor Merulla.

The cadets would like to be involved with the committee to assist them with Remembrance and commemoration events.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Next Meeting: April 8, 2014
10:00 a.m. to Noon
City Hall – Room 192