



Hamilton

MINUTES

Hamilton Veterans Committee

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

10:00 a.m.

City Hall – Room 192

Present:	Chair: Bob Fyfe Members: David Steckham, Bill Eisan, Art Tompkins, Councillors Merulla and Pasuta
Absent with Regrets:	Gerry Rattray, Harry McEwen
Also Present:	Anna Bradford, Director, Tourism and Culture Fern Viola, Resource Councillor Brenda Johnson, Ward 11 Geordie Elms, Special Assistant to the Mayor-Military Heritage and Protocol Pam Mulholland, Cultural Projects Specialist Sarah Ehmke, Cultural Projects Specialist Rebecca Oliphant, Minute Taker, Staff Liaison, Tourism and Culture Joey Coleman, Hamilton's Local Journalist

CHAIR'S REMARKS: Remembrance of Fallen Comrades

1. CHANGES TO AGENDA

Item 4.7 Decoration Day – move to beginning of Agenda to accommodate staff schedules

Item 4.4 Remembrance Day – move to follow immediately after Item 4.7 to accommodate staff schedules.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None declared.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING
(Eisan/ Steckham)**

3.1 Hamilton Veterans Committee Meeting Minutes, dated 11 March 2014.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Role & Function of Hamilton Veterans Committee

Motion:

(Steckham / Eisan)

That report HVC14-001 Revised Mandate and Membership for the Hamilton Veterans Committee be approved for submission to the May 12 Emergency and Community Services Committee.

CARRIED

4.2 Fields of Honour

Motion:

(Steckham / Tompkins)

That report HVC14-002 Woodland Cemetery – Section 18 – “Fields of Honour” – Eligibility Criteria be approved for submission to the May 12 Emergency and Community Services Committee.

CARRIED

4.3 Remembrance Day Information/Procedure Manual

Update: David Steckham

Arts, Events and Grants staff to provide information for manual regarding City procedures.

4.4 Remembrance Day 2014

Garrison Parade – Sunday, November 9 – LIUNA Station

City Service – Tuesday, November 11 – City Hall

Guest: Pam Mulholland, Cultural Projects Specialist,

Pam explained her role in Remembrance Day events in the City

- Coordinates with the HVC the Garrison Parade and the City service ordinarily at the Cenotaph in Gore Park
- Prepares road closures for other Remembrance Day events within the City

The Garrison Parade Service on Nov. 9 will begin at the Armouries to the outdoor property at LIUNA Station. Logistics have been discussed with LIUNA. Pam will come to the June meeting with site plans. Committee can go for site visit in late June with LIUNA staff for final confirmation of logistics. The cost is inclusive of set-up, tear-down, chairs, podium etc.

Temporary Cenotaph for laying wreaths

Option 1 - World War 1 artillery piece would be available to be moved to both LIUNA and City Hall. The cost, estimated at \$1 - \$2,000, is not available in the current budget. HVC would need to seek funds through a Council ask.

Option 2 - Drumhead Service – drummers pile drums and cover with their colours, that becomes the cenotaph, would need to book a regimental band for Nov 11, have two regimental bands for Nov 9. Geordie to speak to the regiments, Pam will work with Geordie on proper protocols surrounding a Drumhead Service.

Pam will return with more details for final decision of committee.

Nov 11 Service will be on the Forecourt of City Hall and lobbies. Pam will return in June with a plan for sound systems and other logistics. She will develop a Plan B to move back to Gore Park if it is available although right now that appears unlikely.

Choice of clergy, saluting officers etc will be discussed at a later meeting.

Start collecting ideas from other Remembrance Days to perhaps add to or change our service, doesn't always have to be the same as we've always done it.

4.5 Veterans Place at Gore Park - Gore Park Pedestrianization

Update: Geordie Elms

The project is moving forward. At this time, staff and consultants are looking for design elements. The challenge is finding a storage solution for pictures so designer can find them and see what works. Veterans Committee has a drop box that may work for storage of low res pictures. David and Geordie to work together to use. By the end of April should have something to review. There will be granite face on the Utility box with Army, Navy and Air Force badges etched on it (with new versions of badges).

Panels will tell stories based on words – courage, service, honour, coming home, etc. Design will be capture the modern era.

4.6 Evaluation of Volunteer Committees

Responses from committee were collated on one form. Draft distributed. Rebecca will forward to Clerks for their deadline.

4.7 Decoration Day – Woodland Cemetery – Sunday, June 8

Guest: Sarah Ehmke, Cultural Projects Specialist

Service will be in the Upper field. There will be 2 buses at City Hall at 10:15 a.m. for a 10:30 departure. The buses will return to City Hall at 11:45 a.m. after the 11:00 service. This is the last year of the 3 year agreement with Dundas Concert Band to accompany the service. Sarah will confirm times with them. Fern confirmed as emcee and vocalist. Bob will confirm with Gerry about bugling this year. Saluting officer and parade marshall will be confirmed for May meeting. Francis Chisholm will be invited to participate as padre. Sarah will confirm logistics, wreaths, and other decorations for the service.

Event budget does not allow for advertising however Sarah will have a Public Service Announcement (PSA) distributed.

Sarah will bring a draft program to the May meeting. The type will be larger to meet new AODA (Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act) standards

Always trying to promote HVC Remembrance services externally so perhaps someone from another organization should be invited to be saluting officer. It should be someone who has worn a uniform at one time – suggestions - Linda Furchner from RHLI, Dan Muir from Navy Vets.

Staff assigned to Dieppe Memorial Service and East Hamilton Decoration Day is Jen Anisef.

Mini decoration days – Art would like to discuss further with Councillor Johnson. The Councillor suggested self-guided tours of graves, cenotaphs, Memorial Halls that would have volunteers stationed at them that could be decorated on a particular Sunday each year.

Add funds for a brochure (not time limiting – just list structures that are not moving rather than services that change dates each year), and flags as part of wish list in letter to the Minister of Veterans Affairs.

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

Teresa Paris from DND has contacted David with a request for contacts, people who would like to participate in an event to mark this anniversary. Limited details at this time - looking for a colour party, hoping to have students involved creating memory stones, hoping Veterans Affairs and HMCS Star will be involved. David will provide names of anyone who has an interest to Teresa.

David has forwarded the information to Francis Chisholm as he expressed an interest in what, if anything, the City was doing.

5. STANDING ITEMS

5.1 BUDGET Review

- **Event Expense Review**

5.2 WWI Anniversary Commemorations

Pam will coordinate the wreath / plaque ceremony after the service at City Hall on November 11.

5.3. Parking for Veterans in Hamilton

Councillor Merulla's motion will go to Emergency & Community Services on May 12. Bob and Dave will speak to the motion if necessary. Rebecca to submit a delegation request for them.

5.4 Upcoming Events

- **Yellow Ribbon/Support the Troops Event - June 5**

An invitation will come to the members of the HVC from the Police Chief's office.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Battle of the Atlantic Parade

Information attached. The Navy Cadets are looking to do some kind of remembrance on April 24.

Art / Bob are both available to assist but will need the date confirmed. Councillor Merulla will be in attendance. Bob will contact Jeff directly and share details with Art.

Other organizations are more appropriate to assist. The liaison officer should be in touch with Navy League, RCNVR, HMCS Star.

Councillor Merulla stated this is another opportunity to bring organizations together instead of working in silos.

6.2 National Day of Honour – Afghanistan – May 9

Update: Geordie Elms

City of Hamilton Ceremony (sponsor Col Elms)

A National Day to mark the completion of the Afghan mission. Challenge in marking the day this year is that many are still serving. The aim is a simple ceremony outside City Hall, then march to barracks for a party afterwards. Geordie is meeting with COs next week. Securing bands for a weekday event is difficult so it may be a simple flag-raising. Geordie will send an email when he has more details to share.

Chris Ecklund, Heroes program, sent an email to Council with ideas about something at HMCS Star, lighting waterfalls and something at Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum.

Making it a family event may garner more participation.

6.3 Honorary Member

Councillor Merulla asked the committee to consider making Bill McCulloch an honorary member of the HVC in recognition of all the work he did in establishing the Hamilton Veterans Committee.

6.4 Advocacy body for all Veterans

Due to the increasing number of calls Councillor Merulla's office receives about the sustainability of Legions and Veterans organizations in his Ward he initiated a discussion about inviting the Minister of Veterans Affairs to a to a general meeting, to our Remembrance Services and to the re-opening of Veterans Place at Gore Park in 2015:

- to promote that we are the only Veterans Committee in Canada
- to campaign with Legions and other Veterans organizations to develop a formula for sustainability for Legions and HVC
- to campaign for funds to develop a poster for schools to encourage attendance at Veterans events
- to campaign for funds to develop a brochure (see Item 4.7 Decoration Day)

Motion:

(Steckham / Eisan)

That a formal invitation to attend a Hamilton Veterans Committee meeting and the re-opening of Veterans Place at Gore Park be sent to the Minister of Veterans Affairs, the Honorable Julian Fantino including a request to assist the Hamilton Veterans Committee in developing a formula for sustainability of Legions and Veterans organizations in Hamilton.

CARRIED

It was decided a sub-committee should be created to include not only members of the HVC but also other stakeholders to gather information regarding the request in the Motion.

Councillor Johnson offered to sit on the sub-committee. It was suggested that Councillor Pasuta may want to be part of the sub-committee as his son is currently in the Military.

Councillor Merulla reiterated that the Councillors' role is to steer the committee rather than as a front line member by taking HVC voice to Council.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Next Meeting: May 13, 2014
 10:00 a.m. to Noon
 City Hall – Room 192

Note: Bob away 3-16 June