



Hamilton

MINUTES

Hamilton Veterans Committee

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

10:00 a.m.

City Hall – Room 192

Present: Chair: Bob Fyfe
Members: Fern Viola, Art Tompkins, Bill Eisan, Dave Steckham,
Councillor B. Johnson, Councillor Pasuta

**Absent with
Regrets:**

Also Present: Anna Bradford, Director, Tourism and Culture Division
Therese Charbonneau, Senior Conservator
Kristen Kerr, Cultural Projects Specialist
Keven Ellis, North Wall Riders
Dan Muir, President, United Council of Veterans
Peter Vronsky, Battle of Ridgeway
Rebecca Oliphant, Staff Liaison to HVC, Tourism and Culture
Division

CHAIR'S REMARKS: Remembrance of Fallen Comrades

1. CHANGES TO AGENDA

Item 4.3 will be moved to the beginning of the Agenda to accommodate staff schedules.

Item 5.4 will follow immediately after 4.3 to accommodate staff schedules.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None declared.

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

3.1 Hamilton Veterans Committee Meeting Minutes, dated 11 August 2015.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 HVC Events Information / Procedure Manual

Staff will continue to update.

4.2 Parking for Veterans in Hamilton

This item will be brought forward on the agenda when pilot program is completed and results of analysis are shared.

Councillors will ask for an update at the next GIC meeting.

4.3 Veterans Place at Gore Park - Security

Guest: Therese Charbonneau, Senior Conservator

Therese is investigating preventative measures in order to protect the Cenotaph from skateboarding damage, gouges in the granite, staining. Bob to share photographs of granite blocks used in Holland that hold wreaths as well as impeding skateboarding.

Need to provide an educational program to skateboarding associations.

Other updates:

The restoration of the Argyll pavilion in Bayfront Park is complete. Webbing has been added to prevent birds from damaging, stone has been re-pointed and the pillars have been re-painted a more appropriate colour. Caveat has been added to SEAT applications that bookings in Bayfront Park cannot use the pavilion for any purpose.

Stoney Creek cenotaph was recently tagged with graffiti. Therese has cleaned it. She will follow-up on the removal of trees.

4.4 Mini decoration days

Tabled until 2015-2018 committee is selected.

4.5 Invitation to Minister of Veterans Affairs

Invitation will be re-sent when 2015-2018 committee is selected.

4.6 Adding Afghanistan to existing monuments

Optimistic that the grant application to fund adding Korea and Afghanistan to existing cenotaphs and memorials has been successful. Regardless the inscriptions will be done in time for Remembrance Day Services.

4.7 Afghanistan Memorial

Update: North Wall Riders reviewed the site across from Stoney Creek cenotaph, want to put one of the vehicles (LAV – Light Armoured Vehicle) used in Afghanistan on the site (instead of original plan) with a granite piece in front, engineering has been confirmed to Ontario codes and standards for mounting.

Public Works needs to be consulted as well as public consultation particularly in Stoney Creek. North Wall should work with Councillor Pearson for the public consultation.

Will also need to work with Therese Charbonneau. There was a concern about health and safety of climbers when artillery pieces/vehicles were on open exhibit in the past.

4.8 Change of meeting day discussion

Tabled until 2015-2018 committee is selected.

4.9 Status of City's Volunteer Advisory Committees

Revised Membership Composition of the Hamilton Veterans Committee report will be on the September 28 Emergency and Community Services Committee Agenda.

4.10 Web presence for HVC

Staff investigating.

4.11 Military Personnel Recognition revisions to Facility Naming Policy

Update: Corporate Assets & Strategic Planning staff will advise when the report is going forward.

4.12 Hamilton and Scourge Memorial – August 9, 2015

Mike McAllister, Project Lead has been invited to the October 13 meeting. At this year's memorial Bob was made aware the budget for this service is minimal. Councillor B. Johnson asked why the US Navy has not been asked to contribute to this annual memorial.

5. STANDING ITEMS (includes all HVC hosted events)

5.1 Decoration Day – Woodland Cemetery (Lower Field) – Sunday, June 12, 2016

- Staff to attend Spring 2016

5.2 Dieppe Memorial – Wednesday, August 19, 2015

Post event comments – excellent attendance, for next year to prevent parking on the ramp, pylons or a designated parking attendant were suggested.

Invitations for this memorial are handled by RHLI Veterans Association.

HVC final expenses were \$2120 which includes tent, chairs, sound system, bugler and a port-o-let.

5.3 East Hamilton Decoration Day – Sunday, August 23, 2015

Post event comments – excellent attendance, extensive media coverage for both Dieppe and EHDD, cemetery staff provided their usual professional service, no saluting base, parade blocked view of those sitting in the tent, band went left, colour party went right, troops should have followed band, band was too close.

Slightly over budget for honorariums by just under \$300.

5.4 Remembrance Day

Garrison Parade – Sunday, November 8, 2015

City Service – Wednesday, November 11, 2015

Staff Lead: Kristen Kerr

Councillor B. Johnson suggested HVC ask those MPs and MPPs that are laying wreaths to contribute to the cost of the service, that the HVC/staff do insert / program in the Spectator for which people/businesses would pay to place ads.

Councillor Johnson also asked that HVC/staff keep track of the actual cost of the services including previous ERCS funding and all in-kind services and that HVC/staff investigate how other cities fund Remembrance Day services.

Kristen to bring armbands to October meeting

Update membership list with Councillor B. Johnson

Logistical site visit on Tuesday, September 29 at 2 p.m. Kristen will send Bob a reminder letter.

5.5 BUDGET Review

- Event Expense Review – reviewed under 5.2 to 5.4

5.6 WWI Anniversary Commemorations

This will remain on the Agenda in anticipation of future anniversary commemorations.

5.7 Upcoming Events

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Commemoration of the Battle of Ridgeway

Guest: Peter Vronsky

Next year marks the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Ridgeway, 31 soldiers, first Canadian military to fall in action, Decoration Day first held in 1890 in protest of these forgotten soldiers, June 9, 1866 marked the first modern battle fought by Canadian military, against Irish-American insurgents (Civil War veterans).

Battle was lost so they were forgotten, lost to their regiments, asking Minister O'Toole enlist them in our Remembrance Day memorial heritage, his response was very positive however interrupted by the election, asking for battle honours to be awarded with the overturning of the 1924 decision denying them.

June 4, 2016 re-enacting march to battlefield, estimate 10,000 will be in attendance

Motion

(Johnson/Tompkins)

That a letter of endorsement be sent to Minister O'Toole and the Department of National Defense.

CARRIED

(Peter to send draft)

6.2 Bricks for Peace Memorial Arch

North Wall Riders have made arrangements to have memorial bricks installed for Justin Stark and Nathan Cirillo. They will ask the Argylls for potential dates that they would be able to attend the installation of the bricks. The confirmed date will be provided to HVC and hope for their support.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: **October 13, 2015,**
10:00 a.m. to Noon
Room 192, 1st floor, City Hall