



Hamilton

MINUTES

Hamilton Veterans Committee

Wednesday, January 20, 2016

10:00 a.m.

City Hall – Room 192

Present:	Chair: Bob Fyfe Members: David Steckham, Art Tompkins Councillor B. Johnson, Councillor Pasuta
Absent with Regrets:	Bill Eisan, Fern Viola
Also Present:	Anna Bradford, Director, Tourism and Culture Division Marty Hazell, Senior Director, Parking and By-law Services Ted Arnold, Manager, Parking Operations and Maintenance Sebastian Stula, Supervisor, Parking Services Keven Ellis, North Wall Riders Dan Muir, President, United Council of Veterans Paula-Ann Simon, Branch 163, Royal Canadian Legion Michael Leatham, Hamilton Signals Association Colonel Geordie Elms, MSM, CD (Retired) Neil Bell, Retired HMCS Star Rebecca Oliphant, Staff Liaison to HVC, Tourism and Culture Division

CHAIR'S REMARKS: Remembrance of Fallen Comrades

1. CHANGES TO AGENDA

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None declared

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

3.1 Hamilton Veterans Committee Meeting Minutes, dated 8 December 2015.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 HVC Events Information / Procedure Manual

Revisions discussed at the December 8 General Meeting have been included by Dave. He is still waiting for maps.

4.2 Parking for Veterans in Hamilton

Guests: Marty Hazell, Senior Director, Parking and By-law Services
Ted Arnold, Manager, Parking Operations and Maintenance
Sebastian Stula, Supervisor, Parking Services

Chair, Bob Fyfe, introduced the guests.

Sebastian – on July 15, 2015 Council approved the expanded Veterans' parking program to include all vehicles with a Veterans plate excluding the RCMP. The program was implemented on October 1. A letter was sent out and a new permit issued to those Veterans already registered in the previous program. Newly eligible veterans had to attend the office at 80 Main West. In order to include the exemption of the RCMP it was necessary to continue the permit part of the program. Permit is designed to hang from the rearview mirror so it is visible to By-law officers. 270 permits were issued to veterans that had been registered under the old program. Prior to last year (2015) there were about 350 Veterans registered each year. To date 322 permits have been issued. In the Spring staff will investigate where permits are being used, any patterns and will report to the General Issues Committee (GIC) prior to September 30 when the pilot program expires. Note: it may be difficult to isolate patterns as so few permits have been issued.

Councillor Johnson – intent was if you had a Veterans plate you were included in the program. Because Council's final resolution said the RCMP were to be excluded, it was necessary to issue the additional permit to monitor this exclusion. If they are a Veteran who happens to work for the RCMP they would be included. If they have a plate because they are RCMP, they are excluded.

Note: There are approximately 20 retired RCMP in Hamilton.

The committee questioned whether staff has noticed a reduction in parking fees. Simple answer is no as the number of permits issued make it insignificant.

Marty - the permits make it a cumbersome system and we do not get a true read of the impact

Councillor Johnson – can we make it a true pilot project now - meaning open it up to anyone with a Veterans plate and measure

Sebastian – have had a few out-of-towners come in for the pass (they are eligible), if they assume they have free parking and come in to fight it, each case is adjudicated individually, disagreement on whether they would win or not

Dave – intent was never to be exclusive and drive a wedge between those who served

Councillor Johnson – HVC needs to be at GIC to share that information, ask staff to explain RCMP role in Peacekeeping and other missions because there is lack of understanding of RCMP role

Dave – Canada has not fought a war (legal definition) since World War II, since then either police actions, peacekeeping, (if the gov't declares war then all of their debts of serving military are covered)

Councillor Johnson – asked that staff work with Dave when preparing the next report

Action: Rebecca to provide contact information to Sebastian

Sebastian - doesn't think we've had issues, no red flags of Veterans plates being ticketed

Use social media, legions, city's website to get word out about the program

Councillor Pasuta – asked if there was any way for By-law officers to tally how many plates are in downtown over a period of time

Sebastian – looked at BIAs as key areas that might attract people, walking beat officers are only in the BIA areas

Note: 44,316 veteran's plates issued across Ontario as of Nov 2014, plate issued to veteran, plate expires when veteran expires, any number of vehicles in the veterans name can have veteran's plates, plate is registered to the vehicle

4.3 Veterans Place at Gore Park - Security

Bob discussed changing camera locations, so area around enclaves would be projected better on-screen, at the most recent Downtown West Harbourfront Coordinating Committee meeting Inspector Worster did not report any issues at Veterans Place.

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 Afghanistan Memorial

Update: Jan 13 Keven Ellis sent an email to the LAV 3 monument program, their application not in the list yet, may hear something next week, location is the sticking point if we are approved, families of fallen of Afghanistan were overwhelmed, Afghan memorial has been added to the Public Art Master Plan (not the LAV but another type of memorial)

4.7 Change of meeting day discussion

Tabled until 2015-2018 committee is selected.

4.8 Status of City's Volunteer Advisory Committees

Application deadline closed January 7, 2016. Interviews will be held the beginning of February. Staff anticipate the first meeting of the 2016 – 2018 Hamilton Veterans Committee will be Tuesday, April 12.

4.9 Web presence for HVC

Status: HVC to determine what information they want on the website and provide to Web Redevelopment Team for review.

Tabled until new committee is selected.

4.10 Military Personnel Recognition revisions to Facility Naming Policy

Update: Staff Recommendation Report went to Audit, Finance and Administration Committee on January 18.

The Facility Naming Sub-committee received a proposal to rename the Mohawk/Sanatorium Parkette, located at 260 Mohawk Road West, Hamilton, be renamed in memory of fallen soldier Sergeant Shawn Eades, who grew up in Hamilton. They asked for any comments from the Hamilton Veterans Committee.

The HVC has no concerns and supports the renaming of the parkette

4.11 Artillery Pieces

need to show why they cannot be situated outside, Anna spoke to conservator about plexi covering but that has its own issues, need to find an interior location in the public realm

- Tour of Tourism and Culture storage facility will be scheduled after April 2016 when new committee is in place.

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
may change after first meeting of the new committee, general feeling is that we should only have one and alternate between locations each year

5.2 Dieppe Memorial – Wednesday, August 19, 2016

- Staff to attend Spring 2016

5.3 East Hamilton Decoration Day – Sunday, August 28, 2016

- Staff to attend Spring 2016

5.4 Remembrance Day

Garrison Parade – Sunday, November 13, 2016

City Service – Friday, November 11, 2016

- Staff to attend Spring 2016

Argylls are the lead in 2016, Navy has never been invited to lead, current commanding officer of HMCS Star is interested, Neil to speak to admin about being the coordinator this year, parade format doesn't change even with the different leads, perhaps this would be a better year for mentoring, invite all three commanding officers to a meeting when new committee is in place.

5.5 BUDGET Review

- Event Expense Review –
- 2016 Budget Submission –

Note: The Cenotaph/Monument Restoration Program grant applied for through Veterans Affairs Canada of \$12,665 was received. The funds were used to add Afghanistan to all of the City's existing cenotaphs and monuments and to mitigate vandalism.

5.6 WWI Anniversary Commemorations

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

5.7 Upcoming Events

RHLI planning to exercise the Freedom of the City in honour of Ridgeway

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Profile of Veterans in Hamilton

ask Veterans if they want to participate in local parades – Ancaster Heritage Days etc, maybe part of City Enrichment Fund adjudication, look for every possible opportunity to expand into the Military community and bring the Military community out into the public eye, challenge is the provision of service agreement, if troops perform or participate in a parade they are paid,

Cultivate something between Star and Hamilton & Scourge in August

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Next Meeting: **April 12, 2016**
10:00 a.m. to Noon
Room 192, 1st floor, City Hall