



Hamilton

MINUTES

Hamilton Veterans Committee

Tuesday, August 9, 2016

10:00 a.m.

Room 192, 1st floor City Hall

Present: Chair: Bob Fyfe
Members: Ed Sculthorpe, Art Tompkins, Keven Ellis, Rod Paddon,
Geordie Elms

Absent with Dave Steckham, Marko Babic, Dan Muir, Councillors Pasuta, B.
Johnson (Planning Committee)

Regrets:

Also Present: Bob Bratina, MP Hamilton East-Stoney Creek
Michael Leatham, Hamilton Signals Association
Paula-Ann Simon, Branch 163, Royal Canadian Legion
A/S/Sgt. John Canaris, Hamilton Police Service
Joey Coleman, The Public Record
Sarah Ehmke, Cultural Projects Specialist, Tourism and Culture
Rebecca Oliphant, Staff Liaison to HVC, Tourism and Culture
Division

CHAIR'S REMARKS: Remembrance of Fallen Comrades

1. **CHANGES TO AGENDA**
 - Item 6.1 MP Bob Bratina** – will be moved to the top of the agenda to accommodate schedules
 - Item 5.2 and 5.3 Dieppe and East Hamilton Decoration Day** – will immediately follow MP Bratina
 - Item 6.2 Flag mounts at Gore Park Cenotaph** – will immediately follow Dieppe and East Hamilton Decoration Day.
2. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

None declared.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(Sculthorpe/Tompkins)

3.1 Hamilton Veterans Committee Meeting Minutes, dated 21 June 2016.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 HVC Events Information / Procedure Manual

No update.

4.2 Parking for Veterans in Hamilton

Staff to confirm with Parking staff as to when evaluation report will go forward to General Issues Committee, possibly September 21.

4.3 Veterans Place at Gore Park – Security

A/S/Sgt. John Canaris reported the CCTV cameras are positioned on cenotaph. They do not have police reports about the flag pole damage and have not had any calls specific to cenotaph in last six months.

Rebecca to provide A/S/Sgt. Canaris's information to Therese Charbonneau, Senior Conservator.

4.4 Mini decoration days

For discussion:

- Request City Council to declare an official date for Hamilton's Decoration Day.
- Develop a guide much the same as Doors Open Hamilton does each year.
- Request assistance of Cadets (need notification by September dates for future events)

Tourism and Culture Events Office staff will be invited to a future meeting to facilitate a discussion to move this proposal forward.

4.5 Invitation and Agenda for meeting with Minister of Veterans Affairs

This item was missed in discussion with MP Bob Bratina.

4.6 Change of meeting day discussion

See Item 3.2 of Orientation minutes. For further discussion at August 9 meeting.

For committee's consideration to be discussed further at the August meeting -

- The 4th Tuesday or Thursday of the month tend to have fewer meetings that require Councillor attendance.
- Earlier (8:30 a.m.) or later (4:00 p.m.) would be appreciated by some members.
- Wednesdays should be avoided due to General Issues Committee and Council meetings.
- Planning Committee ordinarily meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. Councillor B. Johnson is Chair and Councillor Pasuta is a member.

- Mondays should be avoided as Audit, Finance and Administration, Board of Health and Public Works meet on Mondays. Both Councillors are members of at least one of those committees.

It was agreed by those members present that the committee would meet the 4th Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. beginning in September (27). RO to send new dates and times to those members not in attendance as soon as possible.

4.7 Web presence for HVC

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

Staff to invite Andrea McKinney, Director of Communications and Intergovernmental Affairs, to a future meeting, possibly September.

4.8 Artillery Pieces

Staff will confirm a tour of Tourism and Culture storage to view the refurbished artillery pieces.

Invite Senior Conservator to explain why artillery pieces cannot be displayed outside.

5. STANDING ITEMS (includes all HVC hosted events)

5.1 Decoration Day – Woodland Cemetery

For discussion – one Decoration Day alternating locations each year

5.2 Dieppe Memorial – Friday, August 19, 2016

Sarah Ehmke provided a quick update on the program.

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

- Host: RHLI Veterans Organization

Sarah Ehmke reviewed the planning for the day.

5.4 Remembrance Day

Garrison Parade – Sunday, November 13, 2016

City Service – Friday, November 11, 2016

Suggestion - Boards of Education be asked to have a Grade 7 or 8 class to attend November 11, use our budget for school bus, investigate to see if HSR can supply bus, 2nd Friday of month, Art Crawl, challenge schools to provide Remembrance Day inspired art, display in Visitor Centre and galleries on James North

5.5 BUDGET Review

- Event Expense Review –Motion requesting HSR to waive fees for HVC events, at this time that would include Decoration Day and East Hamilton Decoration Day, will go to Sep 12 Emergency and Community Services Committee (1:30 p.m. in Council Chambers).

5.6 WWI Anniversary Commemorations – 2014-2018

This will remain on the Agenda in anticipation of future anniversary commemorations in which the HVC may be asked to be involved.

Recently Britain stood still for 2 minutes to commemorate when the whistles blew in trenches for the Battle of the Somme.

2017 is the 100th anniversary of Vimy – suggestion that on a Sunday in 2017 Hamiltonians could be asked to pause for a collective remembrance, churches could be asked to ring their bells.

5.7 Upcoming Events

- Aug 18th – Candlelight Vigil at Dieppe Memorial at 7:30 p.m. led by the North Wall Riders Association in conjunction with the RHLI.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 MP Bob Bratina, House of Commons Veterans Committee

The House of Commons Veterans Committee is hearing witness testimony on the mandate of the above committee, not to change the mandate of service, but rather to ensure services that are in place are being delivered. There has been much testimony about the lack of resources. The anticipated outcome is recommendations as to how they can ensure the veterans that are entitled to a certain service can receive it. WWII Veterans have a clear understanding while more recent veterans do not. Recent veterans need to be made aware of what is available to them. The committee hopes to better understand how they can get that info to the more recent veterans. One gap seems to be at the active service level, as personnel are in their service period, they are not made aware or offered help to prepare for post-service (although this is changing). Suggestions that have come forward to date are: issuing identification that identifies the person as a veteran to be presented when requesting assistance making their information easier to access. One challenge is moving info from active service profiles to veterans as many do not want to admit they are having physical challenges, many want to avoid stigma and financial concerns. Consultations are continuing. Fred Smith is speaking to the issue of homeless veterans. Their military training makes it easy for them to hide for whatever reason. The HoCVC wants to ensure it is a seamless transition from DND to DVA.

They will be meeting at end of August reviewing results. Bob will provide a regular info update on the status of the committee.

6.2 Proposed work to improve flag mount system on Gore Park Cenotaph

Guest: Therese Charbonneau

Therese was unable to attend.

6.3 Afghanistan Memorial - LAV

North Wall Riders Association has received approval from Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum to install the LAV at their site. The NWRA has funds to pay for LAV but will be raising funds for installation, etc.

At this time, all of the Hamilton regiments are on board. Plan is for a Spring 2017 dedication.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Next Meeting: **Tuesday, September 27, 2016**
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Room 192, 1st floor, City Hall