



Hamilton

MINUTES

Hamilton Veterans Committee

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

10:00 a.m.

City Hall – Room 193

Present: Chair: John Clarke
Vice-Chair: Harry McEwen
Members: David Steckham, Gerry Rattray, Bob Fyfe, Bill Eisan,
Art Tompkins

**Absent with
Regrets:** Councillors Merulla and Morelli (City Business)

Also Present: Fern Viola, Veterans Affairs Canada Liaison
Rebecca Oliphant, Technical Staff Liaison, Minute Taker, 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

3.1 (Eisan/Fyfe)

Hamilton Veterans Committee Meeting Minutes, dated 09 August 2011.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Role & Function of Hamilton Veterans Committee

Deferred to November 8, 2011 – Councillors Merulla and Morelli are not available due to City business.

Carrie Brooks-Joiner, Senior Project Manager-Cultural Initiatives will attend the November 8 meeting to present her findings on the role of municipal Veterans Committees.

4.2 World War I Artillery pieces – discussion on location of restored pieces

Verbal approval has been received from the Dieppe Committee to locate the restored pieces at the Memorial.

Gerry will contact Colonel Forsyth to provide a letter of approval for the City's records.

Committee also feels a letter should be sent to Jack McFarland, former Chair of the Hamilton Veterans Committee and charter member of the Dieppe Committee.

4.3 Veterans Way of Remembrance

Action from Aug 9 meeting - Staff to investigate if there will be different sizes of signs.

Naming report was approved at Public Works Committee on September 6, 2011 and will go to Council September 14.

Each street sign will be the same size.

4.4 Possible use of former Parks Canada Discovery Centre as a Military Museum

No update

4.5 Queen's Jubilee Medal

Update – to date no information has been received directly to the HVC/Culture Division or through the City Clerk's Department

4.6 East End Decoration Day – Wrap-Up - August 28, 2011

Committee felt the day went very well.

4.7 Medal of Bravery – Leading Seaman Jaret McQueen from Hamilton

Update: attached letter was sent from the Mayor's office.

David provided a draft letter, it was tweaked by Mayor's office and sent out under his signature. Thank you to Fern for finding McQueen's address.

4.8 Annual Presentation to Emergency & Community Services Committee – 21 Sep 2011 – 1:30 p.m.

Update: Presentation as approved has been forwarded to Clerks for addition to the 21 Sep 2011 Agenda.

4.9 Bands for Veterans commemorative events

Update: need two contracts as want to use George Arnone for East End Decoration Day, think it should be done on a two-year basis, need to confirm list of events / dates with Marie.

4.10 Freedom of the City – Recommendation report

Staff can draft a report for Committee's approval and Chair's signature but needs direction as to what form of recognition the committee would like to see take place. Questions that need to be answered are -

- What should the procedure be if there is going to be recognition by the City in future?
- How do we give pins to the remainder of the Veterans that did not receive them at the recent ceremony?
- Can it be an annual thing? If yes, they usually coincide with an Anniversary, investigate with COs to ask when they might like to see them take place Many Legions are recognizing their returning personnel, usually on a Unit basis.

4.11 Invitations/Advertising of Veterans Events

At this time, invitations are sent by Marie to all Hamilton area MPs, MPPs, and Councillors.

David suggested an annual calendar (and offered to design a template) – different organizations would submit dates, staff agree that a calendar should be on the City's website as they receive numerous inquiries throughout the year about Veterans events.

4.12 2013 Smiths Knoll Remembrance Ceremony

Because it is such an important year, is the City (Battlefield House Museum) planning to assist with hosting the ceremony perhaps in conjunction with both the Stoney Creek Legion and Her Majesty's Army and Navy?

American Legion always involved, parade always starts from the Stoney Creek Legion regardless of which of the two organizations is hosting. Staff to investigate what, if anything, is being planned by Battlefield House Museum and report back to this committee.

4.13 RHLI 150th Anniversary events

Committee does not know who is in charge, understand it will be a big event, Tim Fletcher may know, Chair to send letter asking for information. Heads up for Dieppe Memorial Ceremony next year may need tent and a bus.

4.14 Remembrance Day

Rebecca to ask Marie to set up the meetings preferably before Bob (Oct 7 to 24) and Gerry (Oct 14) are out of country.

Bells – after silence / after lament / 11:15 a.m.

John to investigate further, is there intent to have the bell ringing both days, how long will they ring for, most important to let them know the suggestion / thought is appreciated.

Art will be in Stoney Creek on Nov 11

Bill will do Veterans Prayer Nov 11 and 13.

Silver Cross Mothers – Marie inviting both.

Bugler is confirmed for Nov 11 and 13.

Nov 11 piper Doug
Nov 13 RHLI piper/bugler
Saluting Officer – Nov 13 Jack McFarland
Bob / Harry to look after wreaths
Nov 13 should the Veterans be marching from the Armouries – those that want to march can and others can form up at Cenotaph, should form up right at the front before the Parade comes in, CDN flag and Union Jack from each Unit should be in front, veterans should be right behind, Parade will need to march around
Parade Commander Nov 13 – Bob Sweeker, Bill will work with him to give Army orders
Arm Bands – who has them?

4.15 Branch 58 Legion – April 13-15, 2012 – Parking concern

Legion Convention – Ontario, Niagara District
Would like to request leniency in parking regulations around Legion during this time period.

4.16 United Council of Veterans Annual banquet

Friday night last week of November, Bob will confirm date on Thursday evening.
Mayor Bratina – Guest Speaker

4.17 Protocols for Remembrance Day Ceremonies

Current lack of diversity in ceremonies will be discussed at Remembrance Day meetings Marie is setting up.

5. STANDING ITEMS

5.1 Smith's Knoll - Stoney Creek re-interment

No update.

5.2 Upcoming Events

Nov 10 - Canadian Club Remembrance Day Luncheon at Waterfront Banquet Centre, just Veterans – no spouses
Guest Speaker: Brigadier General Craig Hilton

United Council of Veterans – Sep 15 at RHLI

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 By-law Veterans Parking – currently in Hamilton, Veterans need both the

poppy license plate and a window card issued by Municipal Parking Enforcement, need proof of overseas service to obtain card
Staff to provide most recent Parking Report to new members.

6.2 Gary Ostofi asked that committee be made aware that the person

responsible for recent monument desecration was released on his own recognizance, he is currently is at large, will be tried when he is apprehended, would like Veterans in the gallery during court case, want to set an example.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Next Meeting: 11 October 2011
10:00 a.m. to Noon
City Hall – Room 193

Significant Veterans Anniversaries (Please provide any additions you may be aware of to this list.)

- 2011** - formal end of Canadian combat
- 2012** - RHLI, Dieppe (August 19, 2012), Queen's 60th Jubilee
- 2013** - 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Stoney Creek,
- 2014** - 100th Anniversary of the beginning of WWI
- 70th of D Day
- 2015** -

Should be looking at dates, investigating, asking if HVC can be of assistance