



Hamilton

MINUTES

Hamilton Veterans Committee

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

10:00 a.m.

City Hall – Room 192

Present: Chair: John Clarke
Members: David Steckham, Bob Fyfe, Harry McEwen, Art Tompkins, Councillor Morelli

Absent with Regrets: Councillor Merulla, Gerry Rattray, Bill Eisan

Also Present: Fern Viola, Department of Veterans Affairs Liaison
Anna Bradford, Acting Director Tourism & Culture Division
Rebecca Oliphant, Technical Staff Liaison, Minute Taker, Tourism & Culture Division

CHAIR'S REMARKS – Remembrance of Fallen Comrades

1. **CHANGES TO AGENDA**
Item 4.8 Smith's Knoll Update – Sarah Ehmke, Art & Event Initiatives Coordinator
Sarah will join us at 10:30 to update the committee on this item.
2. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**
None declared.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**
(Fyfe/Steckham)
3.1 Hamilton Veterans Committee Meeting Minutes, dated 14 February 2012. **CARRIED**
Item 4.7 Dress code at Citizenship ceremonies is improving.
4. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

4.1 Role & Function of Hamilton Veterans Committee

Jennifer Kaye, Manager Arts & Events (as Acting Director) and Rebecca Oliphant met with Geordie Elms the Mayor's Special Assistant for Military Heritage and Protocol.

Geordie explained his role as the Mayor's Special Assistant:

Remembrance and protocol generally

Gore Park – Veterans Place, to see the project through to completion

Provide context, history, background information to prepare the Mayor for the many requests he receives to speak at Veterans and other Military events

Geordie is willing to participate in the HVC to any degree the committee wishes. He will attend the regular monthly meetings as a representative of the Mayor's office or he will attend on an as requested basis. He is also willing to assist the committee in their review of their role.

The committee determined that Geordie need only attend on an as-needed basis.

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

Update: Pieces are restored to point where they need painting which will be done in May/June. Full refurbishment should be complete by mid summer. A final decision as to where they will be displayed is still required. Staff explained Risk Mgmt needs to be consulted. Staff stated the pieces should be displayed indoors.

Develop a stakeholder committee - Jim Forsyth – Dieppe Memorial Committee, Bob Fyfe – Hamilton Veterans Committee, Therese Charbonneau – Senior Conservator, Parks – ask for participant

4.3 Freedom of the City – Recommendation report

Update: Staff will provide a draft report for committee review at a future meeting.

Based on information from Geordie Elms, Mayor's Special Assistant for Military Heritage & Protocol a report may no longer be required.

At the meeting with Jennifer Kaye and Rebecca, Geordie explained that the HVC would receive notification of any such events. He stressed that first and foremost the granting of Freedom of the City is the prerogative of Mayor and Council. The upcoming April 21 event is to re-affirm the Freedom of the City of the 31 Sigs Regt. The plan is to develop a procedure for hosting Freedom of the City re-affirmation events through the local regiments. Ultimately these events are the responsibility of the regiments to organize. Geordie is considering a plan to offer Freedom of the City pins to those military personnel who ask. The plan is not to exclude anyone, to be as inclusive as possible.

The HVC would like their attendance to be on an 'as needed' basis.

John still feels a letter should be sent to all regiments to determine who has been recognized and received something from City Hall so others can receive the same recognition.

Staff were requested to invite Geordie Elms to a future meeting in order for HVC to express their concerns and to receive his thoughts on moving forward.

4.4 Calendar of Veteran's Events (Invitations/Advertising of Veterans Events)

Update: Need to strike a Calendar Sub-committee as directed at November 8, 2011 meeting of the Hamilton Veterans Committee. David suggests that it would be best if the calendar was a living document on the internet so updates could be made easily. Royal Canadian Legion – Poppy command – want to know if the calendars will be printed and sold or just on the City's website. David also shared with the RCL that the purpose of the calendar is to recognize Veteran and other military events celebrated by organizations in Hamilton. It is not meant to replace existing calendars that include mainly anniversaries.

4.5 Veterans Parking in Hamilton

Councillor Morelli will get back to committee as soon as possible. This item is not scheduled for discussion at this point because of more pressing issues as well as meeting with some financial resistance from staff. Councillor Morelli does not feel that using comparators to other cities is the correct approach. The committee needs to develop a business case for free parking for Veterans.

4.6 Recognition Events for Fallen Hamilton Military Personnel

Jennifer Kaye and Rebecca at their meeting with Geordie Elms, the Mayor's Special Assistant for Military Heritage and Protocol, were assured the HVC would be made aware of any recognition events that come through the Mayor's office.

4.7 2013 Smiths Knoll Remembrance Ceremony

Update: Sarah Ehmke, a member of the Bicentennial Steering Committee updated the HVC on proposed events for the 2013 Smith's Knoll Remembrance Ceremony.

A Federal grant application was submitted requesting \$200,000 to redevelop / restore Smith's Knoll. The building adjacent to the Knoll has been demolished and archaeology has been completed. Smith's Knoll is the City's opportunity for 2013 legacy. Any funding received will be used to re-inter the remains as well as landscaping, trees and plaquing opportunities.

Current proposal is for a re-dedication of cemetery and sunset service on Friday, May 31. Sarah met with 3 groups - Stoney Creek Legion, American Legion and Her Majesty's Army and Navy. They discussed how these groups and the City can work together for 2013. She would also like to know if there is something essential this committee feels should happen however needs HVC to keep in mind that the Steering Committee has not come to agreements with usual organizers for the event. They do not want to step on toes or appear they are taking over.

- 4.8 **Cancellation of Remembrance Day Service in Federal Building Lobby**
Update: letter needs to go to Emergency & Community Services Committee for approval to send.

4.9 **1812 Bicentennial Commemoration**

Sarah Ehmke will attend the April 10 HVC meeting to provide a presentation on the City's 1812 Bicentennial programming in general and learn how this committee would like to participate in the Bicentennial commemorations. At this time, the HVC's role will be both ceremonial and man-on-the-street. Sarah is co-ordinating the City's 1812 Commemoration events that are not taking place at the Museums e.g. Re-enactment of Battle of Stoney Creek.

Councillor Morelli – important that this committee knows exactly what role they can play, should have a key person from HVC who has information to share with rest of committee. HVC needs to know event and then they can decide what their role is and whether they want to participate or not.

(Fyfe/Steckham)

That Art Tompkins be the Hamilton Veterans Committee liaison to the 1812 Bicentennial Committee.

CARRIED

5. **STANDING ITEMS**

5.1 **Smith's Knoll - Stoney Creek re-internment**

5.2 **Upcoming Events**

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

6.1 **70th Anniversary of Project Husky**

Project Husky was the liberation of Sicily in 1943. A trip is being planned to commemorate the campaign – Project Husky 2013. A young woman has become involved in Project Husky on the death of her parents who were part of liberation. She is trying to write a book, not sure of theme yet, and would like to be get into contact with anyone who might be a Veteran of that campaign, particularly if they were of Sicilian descent. She is hoping for stories such as - did anyone bring home a Sicilian war bride? If members know of anyone please pass on information to David who will in turn pass it along to the requester.

6.2 **Queen's Jubilee Medal** – At this time the HVC has no plans to nominate anyone.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Next Meeting: 10 April 2012
10:00 a.m. to Noon
City Hall – Room 192

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

- 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