



Hamilton

MINUTES

Hamilton Veterans Committee
Tuesday, September 11, 2012
10:00 a.m.

City Hall – Room 192

Present: Chair: Bob Fyfe (Vice-Chair)
Members: Gerry Rattray, David Steckham, Art Tompkins, Bill Eisan

Absent with Regrets: Harry McEwen, Councillors Merulla, Morelli (City Business)

Also Present: Ted Arnold, Manager, Parking Operations and Maintenance
Sarah Ehmke, Arts and Events Initiatives Coordinator, Tourism and Culture
Marie MacEachern, Event Coordinator, Tourism and Culture Division
Rebecca Oliphant, Technical Staff Liaison, Minute Taker, Tourism and Culture Division

CHAIR'S REMARKS –

1. **CHANGES TO AGENDA**
Item 4.4 Veterans Parking in Hamilton move to the beginning of the Agenda to accommodate staff schedules.

Item 5.2 2013 Smith's Knoll Remembrance Ceremony to follow Item 4.4 to accommodate staff schedules.

Item 6.1 2012 Gore Park Remembrance Day Ceremony to follow Item 5.2 to accommodate staff schedules.
2. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**
None declared.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Rattray/Eisan)**
 - 3.1 Hamilton Veterans Committee Meeting Minutes, dated 14 August 2012.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 **Role & Function of Hamilton Veterans Committee**

No update

4.2 **World War I Artillery pieces**

No update.

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

Update: Dave Steckham

Calendar has been updated, David has emailed Rebecca the PDF for posting on the Veterans City webpage.

4.4 **Veterans Parking in Hamilton**

Guest: Ted Arnold, Manager, Parking Operations and Maintenance

Presentation on the City's program

Ted reviewed the criteria for Veterans parking in Hamilton from the City's website with the Committee. There are currently between 400-450 Veterans permits issued in Hamilton. On Remembrance Day anyone with a Veterans license plate may park for free. The City sends out renewal forms to those with permits each year, usually in November. The City is honouring Hamilton veterans rather than all veterans.

Rebecca will provide to the Committee report PED06157(b) which states the impact on revenues for the City and shows the rationale for the Veterans parking program criteria was more than dollars. Councillors must weigh impacts on all constituents (retail sector) when approving programs. Any changes in the program or the criteria would have to be approved by Council.

The original rationale for initiating the Veterans parking program was to financially assist Veterans and it was felt that before the age of 60 it was not as necessary.

There is no consistency in Veterans parking programs across the province.

4.5 **Queen's Jubilee Medal Nomination – Bill McCulloch**

Update: Dave Steckham

The deadline has been extended. David has submitted the nomination for Bill McCulloch.

4.6 **Dieppe Memorial Remembrance Event – Sunday, August 19, 2012**

Comments about the tent – committee very pleased with the tent and inquired as to whether it could happen each year.

4.7 **East Hamilton Decoration Day – Sunday, August 26**

Comments – went well however attendance is low, particularly for the parade. In future, Veterans will just parade to Cenotaph in cemetery. Beginning with June Decoration Day, HVC will invite others to take part particularly cadets. This may be the impetus for extended participation in East Hamilton Decoration Day.

- 4.8 Hamilton and Scourge Memorial** – Thursday, September 20, 2012
Commemoration at Pier 9 City of Hamilton – 6:30 p.m to 7:30 p.m.
HVC to recommend the Hamilton Naval Vets colour party to Geordie Elms.
- 4.9 Fields of Honour**
No update
- 4.10 2013 Budget**
Rationale / justification to request an increase in the annual HVC budget required. Committee to send suggestions to Rebecca.

5. STANDING ITEMS

- 5.1 Smith's Knoll - Stoney Creek re-interment**
No update

5.2 1812 Bicentennial Commemoration

•2013 Smiths Knoll Remembrance Ceremony

Guest: Sarah Ehmke, Arts and Events Initiatives Coordinator

The City will receive just over \$130,000 due to the successful application for Smiths Knoll commemoration project. Part of reason that application was successful was the letter of support from HVC.

Some of the funds will be used for crypt maintenance in order for the remains to be reinterred.

There will be community consultation to determine what the Remembrance ceremony will look like. The focus group meets Sep 12 and the public meeting is Sept 18 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Grandview (Nash-Jackson House). There are funds available for interpretive plaques. The focus group and Advisory Committee will assist in determining themes and wording.

Cemetery staff have lead on the landscape work.

Commemorative Event – Staff are working with the Stoney Creek Legion, Her Majesty's Army and Navy and the American Post in a collaborative effort to determine what the ceremony will look like. Staff expect high profile attendance from all levels of government.

One of the options is a Friday evening event (traditionally the first Sunday in June) in order to re-enact the the unveiling of the monument and the commemoration that followed 100 years ago. This will require a full road closure beginning at Centennial Parkway. Full road closure on Sunday would mean the Re-enactment of the Battle of Stoney Creek would need to start later or buses would have to be allowed access through the ceremony. A Friday evening event also allows Re-enactors and staff to participate and show their respect.

City will be handling the logistics as they do for the regular City and Veterans events. As the scope of event will change, with an anticipated attendance of approx 5000, we must follow direction of Traffic Division. Staff will work in cooperation with the representatives of the Stoney Creek Legion, Her Majesty's Army and Navy and the American Post.

Bob suggested Art put his concerns with the proposed plans in writing and ask like-minded Veterans to do the same.

Sarah will continue to share thoughts about the event with HVC but the event will be determined by the Smith's Knoll Advisory committee.
Sarah is working with Bev Walker of Her Majesty's Army and Navy to determine a date for next meeting of Smith's Knoll Advisory committee.

5.3 Upcoming Events

Drumhead Service 1:30 p.m., Sunday, Sept 16

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 2012 Gore Park Remembrance Day Ceremony
Guest: Marie MacEachern, Event Coordinator

The initial planning meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 26 at 3:00 p.m. followed by dinner at Limoncello on Ottawa Street. Bob to confirm RHLI is available.

Diversity – lead Padre could perhaps assist. Marie to draft a new letter that addresses diversity.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Next Meeting: 9 October 2012
10:00 a.m. to Noon
City Hall – Room 192

Notes: Bob Fyfe will be away for the month of October.

Future meeting discussion items

- Logistics and budget implications of increased numbers when media releases are sent for veterans' events