Present: Chair: Bob Fyfe
Members: Dave Steckham, Bill Eisan, Harry McEwen, Art Tompkins, Councillors Merulla, Morelli (10:30)

Absent with
Regrets: Gerry Rattray

Also Present: Geordie Elms, Special Assistant to the Mayor, Military Heritage and Protocol
Rebecca Oliphant, Minute Taker, Staff Liaison, Tourism and Culture

CHAIR’S REMARKS: Moment of silence for Fallen Comrades

1. CHANGES TO AGENDA

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST
None declared

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING
(Eisan/Steckham)
3.1 Hamilton Veterans Committee Meeting Minutes, dated 12 February 2013.
CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
4.1 Role & Function of Hamilton Veterans Committee
Update: David Steckham
When Fern Viola retires he would like to become a member of the HVC Committee needs to place some emphasis on coordinating the facilitated consultation and identifying those who should take part. It was suggested
that perhaps the Hamilton Historical Board (HHB) should be asked to be part of consultation.
Councillor Merulla stressed that City Council are the ones to approve any changes to the HVC mandate.
Committee to work with staff on a plan of action once who should be invited is evaluated. Need to go invite organizations other than those on the United Council of Veterans as some organizations including RCL Branch 163 do not belong to the United Council.
Merulla – focus on what the intent / objective / purpose of the consultation.
David – is not affiliated with any of the Veteran’s organizations in the city, basically he is City of Hamilton veteran at large and would like to ensure we hear from other veterans like him during the consultation.
Merulla – it is important that we promote that the HVC actually exists, investigate relationship of the HVC with the veterans organizations at large, determine what they want from the HVC, determine how they can communicate with us to better serve them and lastly how do we present that to Council.
Morelli – Defined a need, question now what is the response and how long will it take.
Merulla – have delegations from the Veterans’ community request to present at Committee – GIC then Council in order to receive input to better advise Council on Veteran’s affairs as we are trying to be more inclusive.

Veterans Day – handled by Clerks. The best time might be as part of Veterans week in order to engage more people.

(Merulla)
Motion: Evaluate a Veterans Day in order for city veteran’s organizations to provide their input on what the HVC and Council should do to better serve, promote the committee itself and promote how they would like to see the mandate amended to represent today’s need.

Note: It is of concern to the HVC that RCL Branch 163 and Canadian Warplane Museum hold separate Remembrance Day ceremonies.

4.2 World War I Artillery Pieces
Geordie shared they will be part of the City of Hamilton World War I commemoration in 2014. Remove from agenda

4.3 Calendar of Veteran’s Events / HVC Web page
Action: Committee will confirm with staff as to whether they are interested in looking at an external website for the Veteran’s Committee.
Staff to arrange for demonstration of HHB page etc. HVC would like to know costs and what resources are available.
Bob suggested that Lynda Furchner of the RHLI Association might be able to assist with calendar content.
David would like to be doing more about bringing groups together.
Website needs to be a living document, needs to provide a reason for people to keep visiting. Geordie suggested it could also be a Google group rather than a website.
Perhaps United Council of Veterans is a better lead rather than HVC. Bob will bring up at United Council of Veterans.

It was agreed that Item 4.3 be tabled until such time as Item 4.1 is decided.

4.4 Fields of Honour
Cemetery Section staff are investigating criteria for the National Field of Honour. They will report back to HVC. There are still spaces available at Woodland Cemetery. Current criteria (approved by HVC) is still in place. Geordie reported that Beechwood National Cemetery allows spouses. He will forward information for HVC.

5. STANDING ITEMS
5.1 1812 Bicentennial Commemoration
There will be a media announcement March 27 regarding the City’s signature Bicentennial commemoration events.

Councillor Morelli asked that the committee be provided a copy of the 1812 volume of the HHB’s HistoriCITY newsletter.

- 2013 Smiths Knoll Remembrance Ceremony
Friday, May 31 – trying to arrange an Advisory Committee meeting, possibly March 18. Art (as the HVC representative on the Advisory Committee) will report back to HVC.

5.2 Upcoming Events
April 27 – 11:00 a.m. – Battle of York Parade – Toronto - 5 km march, all regiments, Queen’s Park (presentation of colours, Prince Philip, Colonel in Chief of RCR) to Fort York.

6. NEW BUSINESS
6.1

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Next Meeting: April 9, 2013
10:00 a.m. to Noon
City Hall – Room 192