CHAIR’S REMARKS

1. **ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**
   That the November agenda of the Hamilton Veterans Committee be approved.
   (l)

2. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**
   None declared.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 24 September 2009**
   That the September minutes of the Hamilton Veterans Committee be approved.
   (Rattray/Merulla) CARRIED

4. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

   4.1 **Nevada Tickets**
   Action: (from 24 Sep) Committee to review the Nevada ticket report from Clerks Division and give staff some direction as to how they would like to proceed. - complete
   Issue - Regulations differ from municipality to municipality, concern that monies earned can not be used for Operating, organizations are under the impression the municipality sets the % the organization keeps, Legions are not set up as charities just as non-profit, other Veterans organizations are both, with the current restrictions it is not worth their while to sell the tickets
   Lottery policy is Provincial, the municipality controls the administration of the policy but does not set policy
4.2 Veterans Parking

**Action:** Rebecca will prepare draft of report for Committee’s review and approval at Nov 17 meeting - **complete**.

Councillor Merulla remembered the staff report was amended several months ago possibly to include all Veterans. Councillor Morelli remembered an amendment but still felt there was an age restriction, age restriction was not to diminish respect for younger Veterans but to assist the senior Veterans, used the military retirement age as a cut-off. Councillor Bratina suggested this was a benefit involving a significant amount of money that only benefited those Veterans who were still able to drive, perhaps it could be better used to benefit all Veterans.

**Action:** (Nov 18) Staff to clarify with Clerks the status of the recommendation.

Committee feels there was a lot of abuse, hope that the recommendation that the Veteran be in the vehicle and the permit be turned in upon death would end this Consensus of the committee was that the report should go forward and the Councillors could debate it at E&CS

**Motion that the draft report HVC09-001 Veterans Parking in the City of Hamilton be approved for submission to Emergency & Community Services.**

*(Clarke/Rattray)*

**CARRIED**

4.3 Snow Removal at all Veterans Clubs

**Action:** (from 24 Sep) Staff will follow-up the letter with Gerry Davis, new GM of Public Works - **complete**

Response received from Gerry Davis distributed to committee, there appears to be a misunderstanding on part of Gerry Davis, Veterans do not want parking lots or sidewalks plowed but want snowbanks cleared where DARTS buses park, just want the snow from in front of Clubs cleared

Councillors explained this is the same situation with a number of places, need to make it known and get on the list the same as bus stops, work may not be done for a day or two

**Action:** (Nov 18) in his role as Chair of the Public Works Committee, Councillor Bratina will clarify with Public Works

4.4 Gore Park Planning Committee

**Action:** Anna will ask Le’Ann what the next steps are re: idea for dedicated Veterans Park in the downtown - **complete**

Anna met with Le’Ann about a possible new Veterans Park downtown, too far down the road in the Gore Park process, perhaps in the future

The majority of Veterans are against the idea, Jack is suggesting the Cenotaph be turned 180 degrees, more space for gatherings, middle is going to be strictly Veterans

4.5 Councillors on Veterans Committee
Welcome to Councillor Bratina – hope with more Councillors will be able to get issues before Council, most recent issue that committee has is the Parking issue, felt they were not consulted, learned about it in the paper with everyone else, Committee has had to deal with complaints but felt they had no voice, Staff recognized we did not have the right level of staff to assist the Committee, the HVC’s original mandate was primarily to assist in the planning of Veterans events (Remembrance Day), whereas now they deal with more complex Veterans issues

Note: the current Council approved mandate of the Hamilton Veterans Committee is -To report to the Emergency & Community Services Committee on all matters affecting the Veterans of Hamilton.

4.6 Role & Function of Hamilton Veterans Committee
Action: Anna will report the findings of her research on Best Practices within other municipalities regarding Veterans Committees, with the goal of potentially creating a new or revising the current mandate of the Hamilton Veterans Committee at a future meeting
The Cultural Initiatives Section will be doing this research in early 2010.
Recognize that when Committee was struck it was primarily about the remembrances, things are changing and Veterans issues are much more prominent, making committee more accountable to Veterans and to Council, Councillor Merulla felt there would be more awareness and status at Council if the HVC had Clerks support

Note: the current Council approved mandate of the Hamilton Veterans Committee is -To report to the Emergency & Community Services Committee on all matters affecting the Veterans of Hamilton.

4.7 Veterans Appreciation Day – 25 September 2009
Worthwhile for those who attended.

4.8 Red Friday’s
Action: Anna will bring the draft report to the Nov 17 meeting, to receive input from the Committee – complete
Draft report distributed.
Action: (Nov 18) Committee to review and bring comments to next meeting

4.9 Remembrance Day
Action: Rebecca to investigate payment for George Arnone for Remembrance Day, $300 - $150 2008 and $150 2009 – payment issued 17 September 2009 - complete

4.10 East End Decoration Day – 3rd Sunday in August (Sunday after August 19 service)
Action: staff to investigate the request that was made to the bus company, were they asked to leave the host branch before 12:45 p.m. - complete

Memo from staff to HSR contained some errors, the main one being it asked that the bus leave from RHLI however it was supposed to leave from Navy Club, important that request is reviewed carefully before sending next year
5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Veteran attendance at Citizenship Ceremonies
Handout provided with information about the request for Veterans to attend Citizenship ceremonies

Jack and Gerry will take on the task of scheduling Veterans for the time being with Fern, Gerry also felt this was something the United Council of Veterans would gladly do, Fern to confirm the next ceremony date, possibly Wed, Nov 25 – Jack and Gerry will both attend so as better to explain it to other Veterans

5.2 Remembrance Day Wrap-up
There was some concern that the agenda for the November 11 service was out of order, Gerry explained that everything was in the right order, however they did not have gun that day and cues were off from the Last Post onwards

Media Coverage - Sunday parade coverage only showed one Veteran sitting in a chair. Nov 11 there was no local television coverage, lots of coverage at Warplane. Suggestion that HVC put feelings in writing, make them aware, courteous note respectfully asking for coverage. Jack personally felt bad because we had two Silver Cross mothers (would like it changed to Silver Cross wearers as Silver Cross is now issued to any member of the family for deceased service person) and felt they should have been recognized.

Action: (Nov 18) Councillor Bratina will draft a letter for media coverage

Rifles – in future Bill would like timing for rifles adjusted

Anna offered her and the Culture Division's apology to Councillors Merulla and Morelli for the lack of information for the past year or so. We are aware it put them in an unfavourable position with the Hamilton Veterans Committee and we sincerely regret this oversight.

6. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Next Meeting: 12 January 2010
10:00 a.m. to Noon
City Centre, Suite 305 Boardroom