MINUTES
Hamilton Veterans Committee
Tuesday, January 12, 2010
10:00 a.m.
Hamilton City Centre, Suite 305

CHAIR: Gerry Rattray
MINUTE TAKER: Rebecca Oliphant

PRESENT: Bill Eisan, John Clarke, Tom Dean, Gerry Rattray, Lloyd Shepherd, Harry McEwen, Councillor Bratina, Councillor Morelli, Councillor Merulla

REGRETS: Fern Viola, Veterans Affairs Canada Liaison

GUESTS: General discussion prior to meeting being called to order
Bill questioned the rationale for meeting once a month and the absence of Marie MacEachern. Monthly meetings – were requested by committee in July 2009, committee feels they will be of benefit, give a higher profile to municipal Veterans issues, Veterans issues are growing within the City, want the committee to be a resource that everyone turns to Marie MacEachern - is an Event Planner, she will be invited to meetings that include Veterans event planning on the agenda, her expertise will be used for all Veterans events such as Decoration Day, Remembrance Day etc., requests for Event Road Closure Services (ERCS) for Veterans Events will still be sent to her

CHAIR’S REMARKS –

1. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA
That the January agenda of the Hamilton Veterans Committee be approved.

(Clarke/Eisan) CARRIED

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST
None declared

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 18 November 2009
That the November minutes of the Hamilton Veterans Committee be approved.

(Clarke/Eisan) CARRIED
4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Nevada Tickets
Action: (from 18 Nov) staff to request definitive answer of Clerk’s about the percentage (%) that the organization keeps, possibly investigate how the lottery booths operate in stores i.e.: Zellers, are they paid staff or volunteers?

Rebecca had an informal conversation with Gerry prior to the Veterans meeting, got a better understanding of the issue, Gerry gave Rebecca contact information for someone who may be able to give an even clearer understanding of the issue, Rebecca will investigate further and bring an update to a future meeting

4.2 Veterans Parking
Action: (Nov 18) Staff to clarify with Clerks the status of the current Veterans Parking by-law. – complete, see below

At Committee of the Whole on 11 May 2009 the Veterans Parking By-law was amended to read “all persons residing in Hamilton, who have served in the Canadian Forces, who have attained the age of 60 years and who have obtained and affixed to their vehicle a valid Ontario veteran licence plate”

The Veterans’ report recommending free parking for all Veterans regardless of age is on the 20 January Emergency & Community Services (E&CS) agenda, does not mean it has passed, will need to be debated at E&CS, this is the same meeting that Gerry will be presenting the Hamilton Veterans Committee’s 2009 achievements therefore he will be available to answer any questions E&CS might have about the parking

4.3 Snow Removal at all Veterans Clubs
Action: (Nov 18) in his role as Chair of the Public Works Committee, Councillor Bratina will clarify with Public Works that the Veterans Clubs would like the drop off areas and driveways be cleared of snow banks

E-mail response from staff stating Public Works was “unable to assist with drop-off areas for consistent application of snow clearing by-law” was distributed, committee clarified they are requesting the snowbanks on City property be cleared, nothing on private property, Councillor Morelli asked that it be left with him
Action: (Jan 12) Gerry to provide list of organizations with addresses to Councillor Morelli

4.4 Role & Function of Hamilton Veterans Committee
Action: (Nov 18) Cultural Initiatives Section, Culture Division will research 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 in early 2010

This project has been assigned to a staff person, will bring information back to committee in several months.

4.5 Red Friday’s
**Action:** (Nov 18) Committee to review draft report distributed and bring comments to 12 January 2010 meeting - complete

Committee expressed concern that it may be difficult to have Veterans attend any “Red Friday” events for several reasons – age, mobility, cost, other commitments Consensus from Committee - they have reviewed the staff report and are comfortable with it going forward to Emergency & Community Services.

Motion to accept the recommendations in the “Red Friday” Events staff report.

*(Dean/Clarke)*

**4.6 Veteran attendance at Citizenship Ceremonies Update**

Gerry Rattray

Motion that the Chair send a letter to Fern Viola, Veteran Affairs Canada liaison, to request his advocacy to Federal Gov’t that they provide an honorarium to compensate Veterans attending these events as organizations are having difficulty encouraging Veterans to attend.

*(Clarke/McEwen)*

**4.7 Remembrance Day Wrap-up**

**Action:** (Nov 18) Councillor Bratina will draft a letter for media coverage of future Veterans events and ceremonies

Councillor Bratina asked for a list of upcoming Veterans events in order for him to draft a media advisory to target the most appropriate media

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

**5.1 Resignation of Chair**

Jack is celebrating his 89th birthday today, has sent in a letter of resignation, Anna encouraged him to wait at least until next month in order for the committee to discuss, Gerry has also discussed this with Jack, he wishes to step down now but stresses that he will always be available as a resource when necessary

**5.2 Elections**

Motion that Vice-Chair, Gerry Rattray move up to position of Chair.

*(Clarke/Merulla)*

Gerry will be applying for a leave of absence for one year from both this committee and United Council, United Council knows that he will not be seeking election.

Gerry will present the Hamilton Veterans Committee annual update to Emergency & Community Services next Wednesday, January 20 at 1:30 p.m.

Motion that Tom Dean assume the position of Vice-Chair.

*(Clarke/Merulla)*
Tom will accept the position until the end of this term of Council.

5.3 **Tank at Remembrance Day**
Would it be appropriate for mechanized equipment to be part of the march at Remembrance Day ceremonies?
Councillor Bratina to make enquiries and report back to the committee as to availability and cost.

5.4 **East End Decoration Day**
Bill expressed concern regarding the budget for this event.

**Action:** (Jan 12) staff to provide a breakdown of Event Road Closure Services (ERCS) funding for this and other Veterans events.

5.5 **100th Anniversary of the Navy**
This anniversary will be marked on 10 May 2010, at this time the Culture Division has not received any requests to assist in the celebration or information about events surrounding the celebration, will investigate

**Action:** (Jan 12) at February meeting committee to develop a list of significant Veterans anniversaries over the next 5 years.

**Adjournment**
The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Next Meeting: 09 February 2010
10:00 a.m. to Noon
City Centre, Suite 305 Boardroom