

EAST HARTFORD VETERANS COMMISSION
EAST HARTFORD TOWN HALL
Goodwin University Vet Center/OASIS on the 2nd floor
Memorial Day Parade Committee Meeting

February 21, 2024

PRESENT: Craig Jordan, Candy Guastamachio, Paul Barry, Richard Bates, Ekaterine Tchelidze, Nicole Duane

ABSENT: John Cook

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: the commission was led by Richard Bates in the pledge of allegiance and moment of silence.

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chief of Staff Ekaterine Tchelidze called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.
2. AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA: none
3. ROLL CALL: as indicated above.
4. OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION: None
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: No action taken. Minutes will be approved at the next meeting.
6. COMMUNICATIONS AND INVOICES – none
7. OLD BUSINESS - (a) Memorial Day parade. Team leaders.
 - a. Candy Guastamachio – Parade Team Leader provided updates regarding registered participants. So far, there are 15 registered groups, 23 vehicles, making a total of 421 marchers. Looking for another musical group to add.
 - b. Craig Jordan – Presentation and speakers Team Leader submitted the DD Form 2536 with a request for a military marching unit.
 - i. EHHS Essay Contest – final five will be picked up April 15 with the winner being selected at the April 17th meeting.
 - ii. Mayor Martin confirmed as emcee of the program.
 - iii. Waiting on the Manchester Army Recruiting Station to let us know about the jeep/open vehicle for parade marshal, as well as a possibility to send a few volunteers in uniform to assist on parade day.
 - c. Ekaterine Tchelidze – Post event Team Leader requested a military plane flyover to occur on Memorial Day at 11:15 AM over the Fallen Star Memorial.
 - i. Reached out to the Pratt and Whitney and Coca-Cola with a request to sponsor the event, waiting to hear back
 - ii. To reach out to Fire and Police with a request to have Cologuard at the parade
 - d. Rich Bates – Sponsorship Team Leader began reaching out to local businesses and last year's sponsors with sponsorship requests. So far have received 2 sponsorship checks.
 - e. Enrollment forms for participants – updated and published on the town website. Last year's participants were invited.
 - f. Suggestions for Parade Grand Marshall – Alice D'Atillio, Pharmacists Mate in the WWII was suggested. Chairman Cook to reach out.

8. NEW BUSINESS: None

9. 9. Next meeting date is March 20, 2024. Location and time remain the same.

10. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:03 PM.

Submitted by:

Ekaterine Tchelidze, Chief of Staff

Page 1