VETERANS COMMISSION MEETING

740 MAIN STREET

EAST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

East Hartford Community Cultural Center – Room 111

April 11, 2023 - 7:00 pm

Present: John Cook, Paul Barry, Art Parker, Richard Bates, James Shelmerdine, Jr., Candy Guastamachio, and Juliet Relph, Clerk.

Absent: Howard Satalino

Pledge of Allegiance with a moment of silence led by James Shelmerdine, Jr.

- 1) CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner John Cook called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm
 - 2) AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA: Amended to include discussion on Birthday Party for all branches of the Military.
- 3) ROLL CALL: As indicated above.
- 4) OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION None
- 5) APPROVAL OF MINUTES for March 11, 2023, meeting.

MOTION

By James Shelmerdine, Jr. Seconded by Art Parker Motion carried 6/0

- 6) COMMUNICATION AND INVOICES None
- 7) OLD BUSINESS
 - a) Biography contest for high school students
 - i) Status of Public notification
 - ii) Richard Bates contacted the Gazette
 - iii) Scholarship information will be posted in today's copy of the Gazette.
 - iv) A suggestion was made to change the rules for next year's scholarship to include those seniors that are going into the military.
 - b) Contest for high school Juniors and Sophomores What Memorial Day Means to me.
 - i) Craig Jordan is working with Department Chair, Ed Quick on the contest, and we should have essays that have been reviewed by EHHS staff in May.
 - ii) Contest rules open to Sophomores and Juniors and will be reviewed by EHHS staff prior to review by Veterans Commission representatives.
 - c) Winning essay along with other essays will also be posted in the Gazette, depending on the length.
 - d) Will suggest posting essays on the Town's website.

- e) Selected submissions will be archived.
- 8) NEW BUSINESS
 - a) Memorial Day Parade Planning
 - i) There is a need for volunteers, and it was also noted that we acknowledge the Honor Guards, Police and Fire officials during the ceremony.
 - ii) Suggestions for Keynote speaker
 - (a) Essay winner
 - iii) Grand Marshall/s
 - (a) Frank Rist Navy Veteran of WWII.
 - b) Budget item for Memorial Day Parade
 - i) \$20,000 as an increase to the events budget for the next fiscal year.
 - c) Memorial Service on Sunday, May 28th at the Bicentennial Park
 - i) Laying of wreath at Bicentennial Park- Richard Bates will research the price of wreaths.

A motion was made to authorize a payment of no more than \$250.00 for the Memorial Day wreath.

MOTION By Art Parker Seconded by Paul Barry Motion carried 6/0

- ii) Reading of Gold Star names will have assignments at next meeting.
- iii) Bagpiper is committed to play.
- iv) TAPS by EHHS Bugler.
- d) Inventory of grave flags for Memorial Day Do we need to order?

A motion was amended to order no more than 3,000 and not to exceed \$4,000.

MOTION By Art Parker Seconded by Paul Barry Motion carried 6/0

- e) Richard Bates will make contact with the Mayor's office regarding a the possibility of celebrating the birthday of all branches of the Military in coordination with the Rotary Clubs program for Veterans.
- 9) ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 pm

MOTION By Art Parker Seconded by Paul Barry Motion carried 6/0

The next meeting is scheduled for May 9, 2023

Respectfully submitted by: Juliet D. Relph, Clerk