

## **MONUMENTS AND CEREMONIES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES APRIL 10, 2012**

The meeting was called to order at 3:32 PM by Chairman Phil Kraft. Commissioners present were: Ed Carabillo, Marian Castell, John Geoghegan, Roland Holub, Dave Polett, Ken Reiss, Charles Scribner, Sueann Schorr, George Walsh. Guests included Winfred Lom, who represented the DAR; Captain Pavia and Lieutenant Anderson of the Darien Police Department; and five members of the Support Our Soldiers (SOS) organization at Darien High School.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved without change.

Chairman Kraft welcomed the members and guests. The 2012 Memorial Day observances would be the primary order of business of this meeting.

Dave Polett reported on the status of the Patriot Brass marching unit and of the plan to purchase a folding aluminum platform for use as a reviewing stand:

--The Masonic Club of Darien has made available \$1,000 toward hiring a marching unit of the Patriot Brass. As no other funds appear to be available, he suggested that the \$1,000 be used to cover the full cost of a six-piece unit. A motion to approve this suggestion was made by Ed Carabillo and seconded by Roland Holub. The motion was approved.

--The reviewing stand would cost \$2,020 plus shipping. It would be appropriate to dedicate the stand to the late Philip Morehouse, former chairman and long-time member of the Monuments & Ceremonies Commission. John Geoghegan reported that the Senior Men's group probably would not contribute more than \$400. Marian Castell has spoken to Bill Morehouse about a contribution from the Morehouse family. A final check of remaining budget funds needs to be made, but Monuments & Ceremonies has on the order of \$1,000 to \$1,200 available now. Worst case scenario is that the outstanding balance could be paid July first when next year's budget becomes available. It was suggested that Dave Polett try to negotiate a two-part payment with the manufacturer, and if successful, place the order for delivery before Memorial Day. That suggestion was moved as a motion by John Geoghegan and seconded by Charles Scribner and approved by the commission.

Sueann Schorr distributed copies of a proposed flyer headed "Help us show our appreciation" that could be used in raising funds for the Patriot Brass and the reviewing stand. In light of the short time remaining until Memorial Day and the two motions just passed by the commission, the text of the flyer was amended to include just the reviewing stand, and approved.

For the benefit of the channel 79 audience, Chairman Kraft reiterated that this would be the final year of the Memorial Day Parade being managed by the Monuments and Ceremonies Commission, and that hereafter the commission would manage the ceremony at the cemetery, while the parade arrangements would be managed by a yet-to-be-formed parade committee.

Kraft then went over in detail the traffic pattern and layout of the parade assembly at Goodwives Shopping Plaza. There will be an on-site meeting with Darien Police and SOS helpers the first week of May. The SOS committed to providing seven members to help at the assembly. Captain Pavia expressed concern that store parking traffic would share three of the parking aisles that have been designated for parade assembly. Bob Riith will be reminded to ask merchants to tell their employees to park behind the shopping center on Memorial Day.

Kraft suggested that the vehicles used by the Senior Men be appropriately marked but distributed to lead each of the units, thereby breaking up the string of cars that disturbs the balance of the parade.

Kraft then went down the list of invited marching units that had not yet responded. Various commissioners volunteered to follow up with those units.

Kraft said that the Darien Boat Club has set a tentative date of the weekend following Memorial Day to conduct a memorial observance at the beach. He also reported that we had received no commitment yet from the National Guard for a parade flyover' he plans to follow up. John Geoghegan reported that he had no success with getting a flyover by the Fairfield Police helicopter.

Commissioners Geoghegan and Schorr reported that Rev. Rosenberger of the Congregational Church and Msgr. McGrath had accepted invitations to participate in the memorial ceremonies. They will be asked to work out their preferences regarding the convocation and the benediction. The Tudor Singers have also agreed to participate in the ceremony.

Lt. Anderson said that the Police Department Color Guard, which leads the parade, would be available to participate at the ceremony if the VFW color guard could not.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ed Carabillo and seconded by John Geoghegan. The meeting adjourned at 4:40 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for May 8, at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Reiss, for the Secretary