VETERAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY MARCH 10th, 2011
5:00 p.m.

The Veteran Affairs Committee met on Thursday, March 10th, 2011, in the Council Chambers at Centralia City Hall.

Roll Call

Members: Earl White, Roy Aarons, Christopher Gray, Brian Merrell, Dan Johnson

Present: Earl White, Roy Aarons, Dan Johnson

Staff: Alex McElroy, Assistant City Manager; Becky Ault, Mayor

Review of Prior Discussion

1. Alex passed out the draft Veteran Service Recognition form to be distributed to local funeral homes for the identification of lost service members in the Centralia community. The committee reviewed the form and offered input into alterations.
2. Alex stated that he will work on a press release to local media about the committee's formation, goals and objectives.

New Business

1. 4th of July Parade
    a. *Location* - The committee again discussed the possibility of hosting a 4th of July event. The committee felt that if the event was limited to a parade of vehicles to start at the intersection of Chestnut and Broadway and continue west and end at the Fairview Park there would be much less permits and permission form to attain.
    b. *Attendance/participants* – the committee suggested inviting outside veteran organizations such as the Patoka American Legion along with all the local veteran organizations. The committee decided to limit the organizational participants to Marion county as a majority of the other counties already have 4th of July events. Earl suggested checking with the National Guard and local car dealerships for sponsorship or participation in the parade with vehicles. Mayor Ault suggested contacting the individual in charge of the car show in the Balloon Festival as well as Vicki Rogers. Mayor Ault stated that Vicki is very passionate about supporting veteran programs and could potentially be a great asset to the committee as they plan this event. Mayor Ault also recommended contacting the American Legion for sponsorship of the event as they

already have a certificate of insurance filed with the City for the use of Fairview Park.

c. *Time* – The committee agreed that if they parade were to commence at 5:00 p.m. on the 4th at Chestnut & Broadway Avenue intersection the participants would be able to avoid some of the summer heat and arrive at the American Legion shelter at Fairview park in time to enjoy the activities.

d. *Communications* - Alex stated that he would draft a letter of support to be presented to Council for consideration in supporting the event. Alex will also contact the Police and Fire Department and inform them of the committee's intentions and solicit advice and support. Once the event is established, Alex will contact Senator John O. Jones (54th District) and Representative John Cavalletto and invite them to attend. Roy and Dan agreed to contact local veteran organizations and inform them of the event and solicit support and attendance.

Other Business
None

The committee members scheduled to meet again **April 14th, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.** at City Hall.

Adjournment

Ayes: All
Nays: None

Respectfully submitted,

Alex McElroy
Assistant City Manager