



Veterans Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes of July 9, 2024

TOPIC		DISCUSSION
PRESENT:		Members: Robert Challinor Jr., Dave Gilbert, Michael Vassar (left @ 6:45 for another mtg), Alan Joslin, Willie Bousquet (arrived @ 6:30 from another mtg-Ex Officio – Town of Putnam Parks and Recreation Department Head), Mayor Barney Seney (Ex Officio – Town of Putnam Executive Head), Harold Charbonneau of Memorial Day Parade Committee. Plus 2 guests (Bill Schmidt & Mike Stewart of Putnam Elks)
ABSENT:		Jim Bradley, Hans Lowell Arthur (Buster) Corey of Memorial Day Parade Committee
1.	Call to Order	Rob C. called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM. Quorum was met during roll call.
2.	Pledge of Allegiance	
3.	Public Comment – 3 min max per person	None
4.	Approval of minutes from last meeting(s)	Approve Regular meeting minutes from June 11, 2024 Mike V made a motion, 2 nd by Dave G, no discussion, all approved.
5.	Communications	*Thank You card from RPC for Veterans Park improvements. *Putnam BPOE Lodge #574 Elks request for bricks to honor vets from all branches (8), plus 1 noting their lodge. <i>Discussion:</i> Brick area around flag will remain for veterans only (bricks with veterans names on them), the side strips along the walkway will be used for 8x8 bricks of VAC orgs, project partners, and 8x4 bricks of vets being honored by civic orgs like Putnam Police, Putnam Lions, Putnam Elks. Bill S asked about the bricks that noted a family and not just an individual vet. Rob C will review all bricks and relocate any in question to the “edge”. Mike V made motion to accept all 9 Elk bricks, laid out as all agreed to in project partner/civic org strip to the right of the walkway, Alan J 2 nd , all approved.
6.	Reports of Standing Committees	A Cemetery Committee: nothing to report, but committee will need to consider purchase of stone cleaning liquid in the future B Grove Street Monument: looking good, may add a bench in future, fill area to level and plant seed as needed in fall C Memorial Day Parade Committee: 9 street flags ordered & received. Reminder that a new parade starter will be needed for next year 2025 D Hometown Heroes Banners: Deadline to get order is Tues July 9, 2024 @ \$110 ea. Goal 20 this year (can take 32). All info for the banners was due at this mtg, but still in progress. So far we have: Martell, David A, Navy Desert Storm, nothing received yet but wife said she could provide - see Willie B – DON'T COUNT ON THIS ONE 1 Guillot, John, Marines, Vietnam Era, (\$110 paid by him), Chase has scanned photo & info)

		2 Meadows, Loretta, Air Force, 1993-1997, (\$110 paid) via Jay Vanderschel donation), Chase has scanned photo & info 3 Meadows, Michael, Army Desert Shield/Desert Storm, (\$110.00 paid), Chase has scanned photo & info 4 Neeland, James, Army Vietnam Era, (\$110.00 paid) via Jay Vanderschel donation), Chase has scanned photo & info 5 Simmons, Roy, Navy Lt Commander 1980-2008 (Desert Storm), (\$110.00 paid), Chase has scanned photo & info 6 Stewart, Mikes dad – (\$110 Mike to pay), will bring photo and info for banner to Chase) 7 Vassar, Kenneth, US Army, 1964-1966 (\$110 Mike Vassar to pay), Chase has scanned photo & info) Supposedly more at VFW..... <i>Goal for these banners to be in and up for Labor Day weekend.</i> <i>Will be placed in Veterans Park and wrap around and displayed as needed with quantity received.</i>
7.	Reports of Special Committee	A Veterans Park (127 Church Street) Revitalization-all phases: total cost expected to be \$130,000 - \$150,000 Memorial Bricks (qty 2000+/-): Total orders rcvd in rec office as of meeting time is 1139. - MAJOR SPONSOR outreach continues. - Still awaiting Spirol's 100 brick list & donation (\$10,000) - Still awaiting Mag Tech/QC Storage 35 brick list & donation (\$3,500) - Still awaiting US Button 25 brick list & donation (\$2,500) Monuments: - FREE crane to set still expected to be donated, saving \$3500 - Afghanistan stone to be donated by bankHometown (\$5000) - Iraq stone to be donated by NEFK (\$5000) - Desert Storm – JCSB to be approached for \$5000 - List of names for bronze to be completed by Willie B by end of week \$24,500 due to Mercer at this time for all stones - Rob to confirm 3 smaller stones are ordered w/Mercer, then will make another downpayment OTHER: Vet Park sign: put in Benches: Green Valley Orthodontics to donate funds for a new bench, Doug Valentine existing bench in good shape to go back in park Dedication: Goal is to hold a park dedication ceremony ARO Veterans Day. B Quarterly Audit Status: (Barney, Dave G, Jim B): current in review. Future discussion/vote on hiring accountant as this project has made filing more complex. Tabled to next meeting. C Other: none
8.	Unfinished Business	A Tree Removal Nancy Drive, Aspinwall Cemetery (town property): Planning still in progress

9.	Grant Considerations & Updates	Eversource \$2000 check received. PR & photo op complete.
10.	New Business	• Creation of VAC facebook page: tabled to next meeting for discussion and vote • Need one more member for Committee: must be a Veteran, live in Putnam, be registered to vote in Putnam
11.	Public Comment – 3 min max per person	None
12.	Adjournment	Alan J motion, Dave G 2nd, meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm. Next meeting Tuesday, August 13, 2024, 6pm, Room 201 <i>(2nd Tuesday unless otherwise noted)</i>

Members: Chairman Robert Challinor Jr. (11/30/28), Jim Bradley (11/30/30), David Gilbert (11/30/29), Alan R. Joslin (11/30/29), Hans W. Lowell (11/30/28), Michael Vassar (11/30/30), 1 vacancy.

******4 members needed for quorum******

Willie Bousquet (Ex Officio – Town of Putnam Parks and Recreation Department Head), Mayor Barney Seney (Ex Officio – Town of Putnam Executive Head).

Memorial Day Parade & Event Committee: Arthur “Buster” Corey, Harold Charbonneau