

Village of Gurnee
Veterans Blue Ribbon Commission
Minutes

DATE: April 25, 2024

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Community Room at the Gurnee Village Hall located at 325
N. O'Plaine Rd., Gurnee IL

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

A. Jim Huisel called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

B. Roll Call: Jim Huisel, Michelle Raine-Shepherd, Irene Hastings., Steve Joseph, Todd Woodson, Konrad Otache, Dan Maher and [Irene Hastings](#)

Excused: Allen Lynch, Peter Karlovic and Alan Maeder and [Summer Padaoan](#)

C. New Commission member- Matt Sawicki-Military Student Outreach and Programs Coordinator, College of Lake County

D. Special Guest- Linda Rockwell- The Hap Foundation

E. Other Officials in Attendance: None

F. Community Members - None

2. The members and attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Minutes Reviewed and Approval of April 25th meeting

4. Old Business

A. Consolidates Resources Book - Steve Joseph shared a handout of an initial version of the resource book.

B. Veteran Garden- Discussion about a veterans/community garden program at the old GHV site at the Gurnee American Legion. Matt Sawicki to secure some resources. Conclusion This could be a great community program. Post 771 is open to the idea. The village is open to assisting.

C. Tiny Homes Program- The Racine organization could not attend this meeting. Steve Joseph to reconnect for the next meeting.

D. Hometown Heroes Banner Program- Discussed which veteran and active duty recognition days would be a good target for the banners. More discussion is required.

E. Gold Star Families - Long discussion about working with Gold Star family members. Recognize and support them.

F. Officer Otache handed out a resource card police offered to hand out

5. New Business

A. Presentation by Linda Rockwell - The Hap Foundation's Warriors Until The End Program. She suggested that Gurnee could host such a program. The program deals with the issues facing aging veterans.

B. Veterans Voices -Brief discussion regarding a video program available through Behind The Mission regarding the veteran experience and communicating it to the civilian community.

C. DD214 Registration Program: Host an event to encourage veterans and their families to register their DD214 with the county.

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.