

1-12-2011 Meeting Minutes / Florissant Veterans Commission
Held at Egan Center – 7:30PM

Eight Florissant Veteran Commission members present.

In attendance: Chmn.-Lindell Bast / Mr. D. Miller / Mr. J. Ruesch / Mr. Dennis Peery / Mr. A. Gettemeier / Mr. N. Sirna / Mr. D. Kopp / Mr. D. Garvey

Meeting began at 7:30PM

Chmn. Offered opening statements; First thanking those in attendance for their support of the Florissant Veterans Commission and braving the elements with their attendance.

Chmn. informed all in attendance that the posted agenda as seen on the website was the order of business.

Lindell Bast offered an accounting for activities representing the Florissant Veterans Commission since his appointment as Chairman (Chmn.)

Veterans Town Hall meeting held November 16, 2010 at the University of Missouri – St. Louis, Century Rms. A & B, One University Boulevard, St. Louis, Mo. 63121. This event was directed and presented by the Missouri Veterans Commission, www.mvc.dps.mo.gov / Phone: 573 751 3779 – 866 VET INFO

The Town Hall Meeting focused on three “musts” for all Veterans: 1. Visit with a Veterans Service Officer (VSO) 2. Sign up for VA Health Care 3. Join a Veterans Service Organization. Service Organizations present with VSO’s were: AMVETS, VVA, American Legion, VFW, Marine Corps League and MAVO.

On November 23rd 2010, at American Legion Post 397, the Florissant Veterans Commission Chmn. by way of invitation, met with a new organization to be a “Veterans Clearing House”, named, “The Greater St. Louis Veterans Coalition”. This organization is to set up as a “for profit” business with emphasis and focus on being the one stop for all service veterans in the greater St. Louis area for veteran’s assistance. It is the intent as expressed by Chmn. that the City of Florissant have a presence at meetings of this coalition. One thing the Greater St. Louis Veterans Coalition has that the Florissant Veterans Commission does not, is funding.

Chmn. presented material that has been found in “curb-side newspapers” as well as “mailings” offering Soldiers Help. Those presented were from a Scientific Art Foundation and a business promoting the sale of caskets and burial arrangements.

Chmn. discussed meetings held with Mayor Lowery and Chief Karabas, where they were advised that all the material on the Florissant website is current and up to date. The agenda for Veterans Commission was presented and discussed. All Veteran Commission activities will be available on the website.

It was agreed upon during discussion, for the present time (because not all Florissant Veterans Commission members have access to a computer) communications with Florissant Veterans Commission members would be via the postal service. The website will also be maintained.

In general discussion, answer to an issue presented in prior meeting that dealt with "How can a Florissant Veterans Commission member best identify themselves" since monies are not available for the printing of business cards for commission members, Chmn. recommended using the letter sent from the Mayor's office directing the Commission. Copies of certificate should be OK.

In general discussion matters where Florissant Veterans Commissions can assist veterans on a daily bases were presented. An example discussed was at the Veterans Home on Highway 367. At present they need drivers. Vehicle is provided and no CDL required, phone 314 652 4100 for more information. Another example was to volunteer at the USO or any Veterans Hospital. All examples and opportunities discussed left the volunteer to pick and choose any schedule that would fit their personal schedule and any Veterans facility they choose. Community Church and School activities offer areas for volunteer help.

Chmn. reminded members of "The Soldiers Wish List" and the needs of Julieann Jajar / Founder of the Soldiers Wish List. This organization needs are year round. Website for more information: www.asoldierswishlist.org/

Everything mentioned is where citizens of Florissant and Commission members can support our Veterans.

Mayor Lowery offered opportunity that would permit the Florissant Veterans Commission to have a corner in the community newspaper, FOCUS. All members present agreed that getting and keeping information available to the community on how they can get involved in supporting Veterans in the area was great. It was suggested that at first, website information will be presented.

Chmn. asks members present if anyone would be Chairman of the Veterans Commission.

Chmn. enforced Ordinance No. 6487 as Amended by Ordinance 6552: DISCOUNT POLICY FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSION MEMBERS, POLICE RESERVES AND POLICE VOLUNTEERS, of the CITY OF FLORISSANT, information was distributed to all the Veteran Commission members present.

Chmn. informed members present, of duties directed by "City of Florissant", Code of Ethics, Boards, Commission and Committees, Veterans Commission Sec. 120.540: Organization, stating: "The Veterans Commission Shall elect its own Chairman (Appointed by Mayor Lowery = L. Bast) and Vice Chairman". After general discussion a motion by Veteran Commission Mr. D. Miller was made to elect Mr. D. Garvey as Vice Chairman of the Florissant Veteran Commission. The motion receives a second from Veteran Commission member N. Sirna. Additional comments were heard from members present. Mr. D. Garvey was asked if he would accept the nomination, he responded that he would. With a call for a vote, Mr. D. Garvey was elected "Vice Chairman of the Florissant Veterans Commission".

Chmn. asks members present if anyone would be Chairman of the Veterans Commission.

Chmn. informed members present, of duties directed by "City of Florissant", Code of Ethics, Boards, Commission and Committees, Veterans Commission Sec. 120.540: Organization, stating: "The Veterans Commission shall adopt from time to time such rules and regulations as it deems necessary to carry into effect its responsibilities (Ord. No. 7186~1, 7-25-05) Motion was made by Veteran Commission member Mr. A. Gettemeier to forgo monthly meeting and have the Florissant Veterans Commission meet on as needed basis. Second to the motion was received by Mr. J. Ruesch. Some Commission members present having been on the Veterans Commission from its beginning suggested this agenda and was overruled by past Chmn. In final discussion, it was understood that any member of the Florissant Veterans Commission may call for a meeting of the Commission by presenting an agenda to the Chairman or Vice Chairman, in turn; the agenda will be forwarded to all Commission members, permitting review before a scheduled meeting. A call for vote was made with all members voting yes for an "on - call" meeting agenda for the Veterans Commission. The Mayor may call for a meeting of the Commission anytime.

Chmn. advised the schedule of Veterans Service Officer that is available at City Hall on Tuesdays, 9 – 3:30. Mr. Brian J. Bollier is with the State of Missouri Veterans Commission. He comes to Florissant once a week from the Career Center/3256 Laclede Station Road/Maplewood, Mo 63143/Phone: 314 877 0001 Ext. 242/Email: brian.bollier@mvc.dps.mo.gov

General discussion focused on Scholarship opportunities for "Service Veterans" and their children and grandchildren. Opportunities from Veterans Organizations both local and national are available as well as opportunities from local area Colleges (Lindenwood).

Final topic on the agenda discussed was to determine the need for the Veterans Commission to produce a video to be seen on the Florissant Channel 992. Discussion from all Commission members present found some not being able to view the channel 992 because of the type of service being used, satellite vs. cable, personally owned televisions not being capable of reproducing channels in number range or cable service that does not include "The Box". All Veteran Commission members present agreed that if the Florissant Community Channel was within the general viewing audience of the Community, the Commission would be all for producing material for the channel. But since it is felt at this period in time that the viewing audience is very limited, no effort will be put forth to begin a project like this.

Chmn. asks members present if anyone would be Chairman of the Veterans Commission.

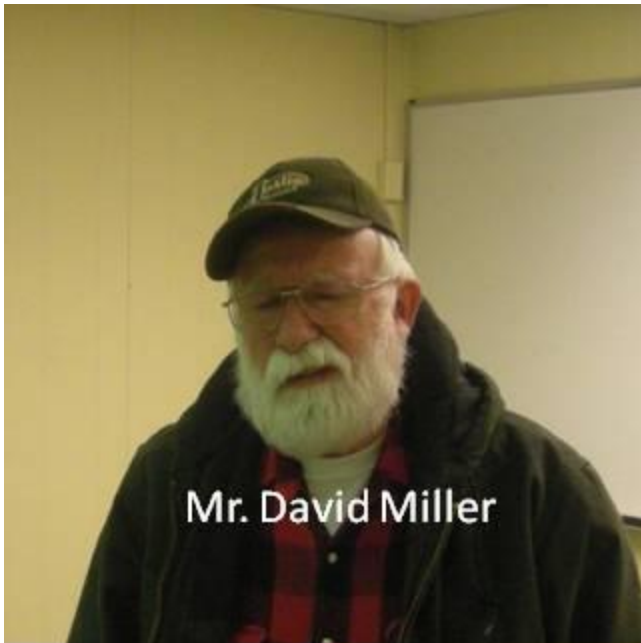
Closing comments by Chairman Lindell Bast thanked the Florissant Veterans Commissions members present for their comradeship as well as support. Chmn. asked each member present to be on the lookout for Citizens in the Community who could bring reward to the Veterans Commission and invite them to join us in our support of our community and our Veterans.

Motion to adjourn/2nd/Pass = Adjourn at 8:28PM

Submitted by:

Lindell Bast
Chairman
City of Florissant Veterans Commission

CC: All Florissant Veterans Commission
Mayors Office – City Hall – Mayor Lowery
Mayors Office – City Hall – Beth Goldstein
Chief of Police – Chief Karabas
Kim Emerson – Florissant Webmaster (Posting)



Mr. David Miller



Mr. Jerry Ruesch



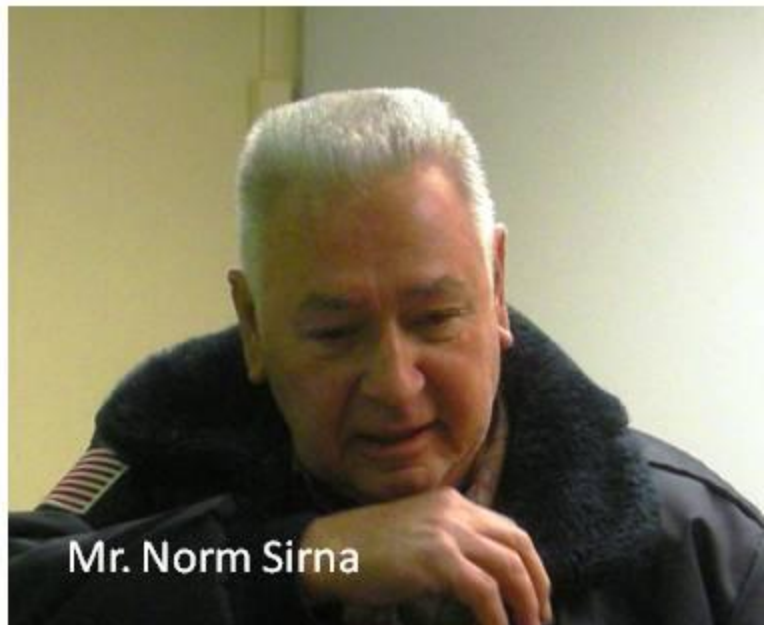
Mr. Dennis Peery



Mr. A. (Bud) Gettemeier



Mr. Dennis Kopp



Mr. Norm Sirna



Photo Left:

Florissant Veterans
Commission Chairman,
Mr. Lindell Bast

Photo Right:

Florissant Veterans
Commission Vice Chairman
Mr. Drew Garvey

