

Village of Gurnee  
Veterans Blue Ribbon Commission  
Minutes

DATE: May 23, 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, Steve Joseph, Konrad Otache, Matt Sawicki and  
Debbie Rueber

Excused: Allen Lynch, Peter Karlovic, Michelle Raine-Shepherd, Irene  
Hastings, Alan Maeder, Todd Woodson, Dan Maher and [Summer  
Padaoan](#)

E. Other Officials in Attendance: None

F. Community Members - Randy Zmudka (Veteran), David Bobo (Veteran),  
Debbie Rueber ( VA Community Engagement Coordinator & Linda Rockwell(The  
Hap Foundation).

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

3. Minutes for the April Meeting are not available for review and approval. To be reviewed at June meeting.

4. Old Business

A. Consolidates Resources Book - Steve Joseph continues to work on document

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.  
Debbie Rueber has a contact at the program and will see if she can schedule  
them at a future meeting.

D. Hometown Heroes Banner Program- Discussed and a decision was made to  
move forward with the program. Village of Gurnee Residence and all attendees  
of Warrne Township High School are eligible. Jim Huisel to notify the village to  
move forward.

E. Gurnee Gold Star Families Garden - Discussion about working with Gold Star  
family members to investigate requirements for creating a garden on the site of  
the old Growing Healthy Veterans project. Matt Sawicki will talk with the CLC  
Horticulture Department to solicit assistance with Veteran students at CLC.

5. New Business

A. Brief discussion about engaging with Blue Star Family Program and its director  
Ben Gould about various events that the Village of Gurnee can sponsor

B. DD214 Registration Program: Host an event to encourage veterans and their families to register their DD214 with the county. Jim Huisel contacted the Lake County Registrar's office for support

5. Public Comment

Discussion about the noise level from a specific ride at Great America that can impact certain veterans in the community. Further investigation is needed.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.