

# Stamford Patriotic and Special Events Commission

Regular Meeting – AAR – Minutes (draft)

Wednesday December 6, 2023 at 2:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at **2:01 pm** by Chairperson Xavier Shellman, with all participants joining by Zoom or by phone.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87191603995?pwd=M0dlTYt3OXh5SjZnNXQXJUQ1hYQT09>

Meeting ID: 871 9160 3995

Passcode: PSEC

One tap mobile

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## Attendees:

P&SEC Members: Xavier Shellman, Hubert Delany, Kate Cook

P&SEC Members Not Present: Dave Kaplan

Guests: Pat Parry, Kieran Matthew Edmondson (left early), Philip Alan Gerard

## Agenda

- Approve draft meeting minutes

August 9 <sup>th</sup>	August 22 <sup>nd</sup>	August 30 <sup>th</sup>	September 6 <sup>th</sup>
September 27 <sup>th</sup>	October 4 <sup>th</sup>	October 10 <sup>th</sup>	October 12 <sup>th</sup>
October 17 <sup>th</sup>	October 24 <sup>th</sup>	October 26 <sup>th</sup>	October 31 <sup>st</sup>
November 1 <sup>st</sup>	November 2 <sup>nd</sup>		

- Xavier asks board members if they've reviewed the draft minutes and if any edits need to be made. → No edits suggested.
- **Minutes approved by all present board members.**
- Approve 2024 meeting calendar
  - Discussions whether to approve calendar now or hold off until later due to board vacancies (*topic brought up throughout meeting; general discussion points will be listed below, not necessarily under the agenda item where they were brought up*).
    - Xavier – asked Hubert to review proposed calendar and schedule of meetings. Similar to the calendar in previous years, dates listed in red would be special meetings specifically for parade and ceremony planning.
      - Hubert – states first order of business before having meetings is squaring away the commission itself. The dates as listed are fine. Whether dates will continue to work will be dependent on the state of the commission.
    - Winni – advised board they need to approve calendar today, then file with Town Clerk ASAP otherwise PSEC can't meet for 30 days after calendar is filed.
    - Xavier – asked Kate for opinion on meeting dates.
      - Kate – had no opinion on meeting dates; wants discuss Xavier's email re 2024 parade dates. Notes Pat sent board email suggestion moving Memorial Day Parade to weekend before (*subject expanded upon in next agenda item*).
    - Winni – stated if meeting calendar and other agenda items are not approved now, then it'll be very difficult to get anything done in 2024. Further advised when new board members get added, PSEC can meet and resubmit annual calendar. Reminded board: once new calendar with new dates filed with Town Clerk, they can't have a regular meeting for 30 days after that submission.
    - Hubert - Wanted broader discussion re: dates. Biggest concern is commission and who's going to be on it. States for his/everyone else's edification, calendar would allow them as an organization to meet next year. And if for whatever reason, it turns out they have to change it, will be able to do so later. Meeting calendar allows PSEC to meet but doesn't necessarily lock them in perpetuity.
      - Xavier – concurs to approve a calendar so PSEC will have something on the books for next year.

- **Motion by Xavier to approve the 2024 meeting calendar.**
  - **Seconded by Hubert. Confirmed by Kate. Carried without dissent.**
  - Interim board clerk will file approved meeting calendar with Town Clerk.
- Vote on Memorial Day & rain date
  - Xavier – suggests picking dates for both parades now, since they still have quorum, and new PSEC board can change them later if needed. Makes sense to have dates planned because starting troop request will be dependent on those dates and submitting that request earlier is better.
  - Xavier proposes date of Sunday May 26, 2024 (rain date: June 2, 2024).
  - Pat emailed propose date of Sunday May 19 (weekend before Memorial Day).
  - Xavier – shared historical context that parade has been Sunday of Memorial Day weekend. Asks Hubert, since he'll be the board member there, thoughts on those dates; proposed regular dates and rain date.
    - Hubert – shared thoughts on dates for Memorial Day events are same as his thoughts for the meeting calendar. He doesn't see any immediate objection but overall it will depend on the health of the commission itself. Would like a broader discussion about the dates. The biggest concern is going to be the commission and who's going to be on it.
  - Xavier – asks board members if they want to vote on a specific date so it'll be ready to go for January, since there likely won't be a quorum and not sure what would happen in that case.
  - Kate – shared it probably would be better for whoever's running the parade to vote on the dates since maybe in January someone will get added to the board. Added historical context of what was done when they didn't have quorum for 2023 Memorial Day planning as David was sick and Joe wasn't able to attend every meeting (chair Xavier was away on military leave). Due to the tight deadlines, commission status changed to planning group. That way Kate and Hubert were able to meet, make decisions, and proceed without having quorum.
    - Winni – clarified status change was approved by Director of Operations.
  - Winni – advised that since they're all still board members and there's quorum, to review and approve any items for 2024. Whenever new board members get added, at that time they can work to change any possible dates. But if these items are not approved while there's quorum now, they cannot be decided upon until there's quorum again, which could be a while.
    - Hubert – raises concern that if board makes a decision now based off current board members, it binds PSEC to those dates. Concern they'll be locked into having a parade for a specific date when they don't know what their available resources to plan that parade are going to be.
    - Winni – clarified that parade dates are not listed on the annual calendar, only meetings. The parade dates can be changed whenever the new board wants down the line as those dates are not on meeting calendar.
  - Pat (via chat) – “A new board can change date of parade but this calendar allows meetings to take place.”
  - Continued discussion of parade dates, now with attendees participating.
  - Pat - strongly encourages PSEC to reach out to veteran organizations now, not January, for feedback on moving the parade up. Additional talking points:
    - 3-day holiday weekend is a challenge to do anything
    - Difficulty getting participants → many schools and organizations don't have enough people to participate
    - Competing with other Memorial Day parades
    - Precedent - Stamford St. Patrick's Day Parade is two weeks before
  - Kieran – in reference to Pat, thinks veterans would like chances to participate in the various parades in the city. Would be good opportunity for veterans to be honored and respected by all citizens due their service to the country.
  - Hubert – willing to vote on dates with express intention that whether or not

those dates stick will be dependent on PSEC ability to execute to meet those dates. Willing to vote now for the purpose of administration, to make sure that it gets done but by no means saying that it is definitely going to happen on that date. It'll happen based off whether or not board can do it.

- Kieran – states May 26<sup>th</sup> is the best date and June 2<sup>nd</sup> should be rain date for the Memorial Day Parade. Believes Veterans Day Parade should be November 10<sup>th</sup> and have November 17<sup>th</sup> as rain date.
- Pat – reiterated May 19<sup>th</sup> as better date and if a rain date is needed, there's still the Sunday before Memorial Day. As opposed to having it after Memorial Day, which becomes quite anticlimactic. Wants to know whatever PSEC votes on, if they'll ask Veterans Council and the veterans' organizations to weigh in.
  - Hubert – responds can only speak for self, but going forward, yes for two reasons: (1) that's the way PSEC have been doing things so far and he agrees with it; (2) voting on these dates today for administrative purposes as this is the last day they'll have quorum for the foreseeable future.
- Kate – posits if a rain date is necessary and leads brief discussion on topic.
  - Main concern that participants don't actually hold rain date in calendar.
  - Xavier – been on commission since 2019, only had to cancel parade once.
  - Kieran – provides additional historical context that 2021 Memorial Day Parade was cancelled due to rain on May 30<sup>th</sup>; parade rescheduled for two weeks later, June 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Hubert - comfortable moving parade to May 19<sup>th</sup> for now. The dates are going to be subject to change based on PSEC ability to perform. States that May 19<sup>th</sup> and the rest of dates as is with very clear expectation that whether or not those dates stay will primarily be determined on PSEC staffing and checking with the Stamford Veterans Council.
- **Motion by Xavier to approve tentative date of May 19, 2024 for Memorial Day Parade, with rain date of June 2, 2024.**
  - **Seconded by Hubert. Confirmed by Kate. Carried without dissent.**
  - **Per Hubert, dates subject to change based on PSEC ability to execute.**
- Vote on Veteran's Day & rain date
  - Xavier proposes Sunday November 10, 2024 (rain date: November 17, 2024)
    - Kieran – agrees with those dates as mentioned above.
  - Pat – suggests date change to not conflict with balloon parade; better to November 3<sup>rd</sup> with a rain date of November 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - **Motion by Xavier to approve tentative date of November 10, 2024 for Veterans Day Parade, with rain date of November 17, 2024.**
    - **Seconded by Hubert. Confirmed by Kate. Carried without dissent.**
    - **Per Hubert, dates subject to change based on PSEC ability to execute.**
- AAR (After Action Review) – 2023 Veteran's Day Parade and Ceremony
  - Planning Stage
    - Schedule of meetings
      - Kate – don't need so many meetings; maybe final week, meet twice.
      - Xavier – agrees schedule could be shortened but had many meetings this year because PSEC short board members. **Suggests the twice weekly special meetings could be the two weeks before parade; the other preceding parade special meetings can be once a week.**
      - Hubert – aligns self with comment about the lack of people. Gave resounding thanks to everyone for all the hard work they did to make event happen. Going into parade with less people and tight timelines, being able to perform the way we did was incredible. It felt like a lot more meetings, but they had less help. Believes meetings helped them keep it together at the time; not sure to keep similar schedule in perpetuity.
      - Xavier – advised Hubert that parade meetings listed as special meetings and in the future can be canceled if they're not needed.

- Kieran (via chat) – “We met three times in the last week, on October 31st (Tuesday), November 1st (Wednesday), and November 2nd (Thursday).”
- Early advertisement
  - Xavier – **advertising earlier was good. Getting print ads was fantastic.** Unsure of impact of digital ads as she never saw them. Asks Kate if she ever heard from Hearst.
    - Kate – shared email with Xavier re Hearst digital ads results.
  - Hubert – brought up feedback from initial special meetings, that PSEC didn’t have **organizational letterhead for the invitations.**
- Contacting participants
  - Hubert – **suggest submitting troop request as soon as possible.** Reports troops confirming participation, but they never showed up.
    - Xavier – confirms not seeing them either. Had spoken to troop contact a few days before parade. Doesn’t recall getting a call or voicemail from troop contact. Unsure what happened.
    - Hubert – will circle back with the troop and General Eavon.
  - Kate – JotForm was started later. Overall met target goal number of participants (40; same as Memorial Day). There’s always a few people that they don’t know how to get in contact with if they’re not on past participant lists. **Suggest brainstorming other outreach methods to advise public of JotForm link so more are aware there’s official process.**
    - Hubert – thanks Kate for going above and beyond. Stated that she helped plan both the Veterans Day Parade and Stamford Downtown balloon parade at the same time, with gusto and dedication. Those parades happened due to her work. Stated it was his first time reaching out to parade participants and had no major issues. Noted some people needed extra help with registration process but felt really supported by Kate entire time.
    - Xavier – echoes Hubert’s praise and thanks Kate for a great job.
- Parade
  - Participants
    - Xavier – participants were really good; nice to see new groups. Some confusion with Grasso, Vitti, and another group on the list multiple times. They didn’t want to go where they were placed in lineup. **Suggests noting what other group they were with and place them later in the parade.**
      - Kate – cause of issue is they signed up as 3 different participants and didn’t advise PSEC they wanted to march together. **Suggests they sign up as one group and note they have multiple vehicles. Alternative: add column to JotForm ask group if they need to be placed next to another group.** Lineup sent days in advance; unsure why Grasso/Vitti didn’t reach out to PSEC to be placed together.
      - Xavier – thinks JotForm addition is great idea. Shared difficulty in getting participants where they needed to be, and they argued about their placement. Advised them they had signed up three different times; if you’re one group, be one group. Once road was full of kids and vehicles, maneuvering them back to where they needed to go was difficult. **Suggest adding note on participant list spreadsheet to reach out to those groups if nothing is mentioned about marching together.**
      - Pat – noted Grasso/Vitti are Jenny’s contacts. Jenny works in Senator Blumenthal’s office. She’s a super supporter of veterans and engaged regularly with Veterans Council. **Suggests PSEC contact Jenny to help resolve this issue.**
  - Transportation for school students
    - Xavier – asks if there were any issues with student transportation.

- Kate – SPS musical director took charge of dealing with buses and students (i.e. where respective groups need to go). Concludes it may be better for PSEC to be less involved if it's not an issue.
- Participant package
  - Xavier – gave kudos to Kate on fantastic job with participant package. Aware of a few things Kate would like to update to package but thinks what was utilized still worked. The Excel spreadsheet that had all the groups listed where they're supposed to be, was very helpful.
  - Kate – acknowledged thanks. Currently creating a package of everything she did for the parade to give to PSEC for whoever helps with next parade.
  - Winni – shared screen to display participant packet to meeting attendees.
  - Pat – ask if files are in common folder City has access to for future use.
    - Kate – has provided some files to interim board clerk. As mentioned previously, will put together a folder of everything and pass along all the materials she has for future board use.
- Flow of parade
  - Xavier – overall went well. Only difficulty was previously mentioned, confusion of who was which group in the lineup.
  - Kate – stationed at library/stage. It's nearly impossible to keep proper spacing; notes similar issues with balloon parade. Everyone did the best that they could. From script perspective, it was a mess as there were so many groups not in order. Radio host (Jon) did the best they could reading the script but couldn't read it in order. He made some mistakes and felt bad. Kate was there to assist him but sometimes tough to differentiate between groups if they didn't have a big sign or banner. There was a rude PD officer, telling host they were saying wrong things; threw host offtrack & made him flustered. She noted it was really uncomfortable.
    - Hubert – asked if way PD was speaking to host was inappropriate.
    - Kate – PD was very nice after the fact. It's in the past, Jon was fine.
  - Xavier – asked if groups got really bunched up by the time they got toward the stage or where they really spaced out. → Kate – a combo
  - Alan – reports he & Sea Cadets thought they were behind correct group based on the list. Someone (from unknown org) was moving groups around at the start (i.e. you're next, come here). Alan unsure why this person was moving people around; maybe thought it would flow better. Believes this is why groups were out of order by the time they got to the stage. Speaker system was good quality; they could be heard well. Thought announcer did a great job.
    - Xavier – confirmed that Alan's group and others lined up on that street (Bedford) were getting shuffled out of order.
    - Winni (via chat) "who was changing the order? was it PD? CERT? would be helpful for the minutes for some clarity"
    - Xavier (via chat) "It was a mix of groups not being where they were supposed to be and CERT/me not realizing some were not where they were supposed to be."
  - Pat – asks if placement of announcer, middle of parade route, worked well.
    - Kate – If it was at the end of route where people were stopping, it would be more backed up. Thinks current site is good as there's a lot of space around the area so people can stand and listen. Speaker system from rental company was great. They played 30 minutes of patriotic music while waiting for parade to start. That was a nice touch as she hadn't asked them to do that.
  - Kate – emphasizes without someone assisting the host, he wouldn't have been able to read anything in order. This is a crucial support role as that person can help identify the next group (i.e. an extra set of eyes).

- CERT assistance
  - Xavier – CERT was good. Monitoring both streets and keeping the groups in order was a challenge. Xavier takes ownership of not monitoring CERT. Had a lot of newer CERT members who hadn't worked this parade before. Report it was only her and Steve Fischer there who had parade historical context. **In future, work with CERT more before the parade starts: go down list of exactly where they should be and what cues they should listen for to pull up the next group.**
  - Kate – Lineup suggestion: assign 3 CERT; 1 to North Street, 1 to right side of Bedford Street, 1 to left side of Bedford Street. **They should be in charge of making sure all of their units are lined up correctly.**
    - Xavier concurs with idea as there weren't enough people watching who was where. **Assigning a section to a specific person would help.**
  - Xavier – noted that **road markings Kate made were really helpful.**
- Police assistance
  - Xavier – PD was good except for the little incident Kate mentioned earlier.
- General
  - Kate – no one **assigned at end of parade to direct participants to the park.** Suggests it could be done by CERT. Parade package includes map showing participants where to go if staying for ceremony, where to go to if leaving. By event time, they don't remember that info. Park employee helped because he was there and had historical parade knowledge. He made the initial suggestion to her to have someone assigned to this task.
    - Xavier – believes **in past parades PD officer stationed there.** Perhaps that **assignment could be made clear during the briefing before the parade** (i.e. whoever's in that spot, this is what you need to do).
- Ceremony
  - Announcer stage
    - Hubert – **setup was fantastic.** Received no complaints about the sound.
    - Kate – national anthem singers hard to hear from where she was standing.
      - Hubert – students were excited beforehand, believes when time to perform it was just a little stage fright, happens to everybody.
      - Pat – leader didn't track cue, had trouble making connection so music didn't start right away, believes that added to nervousness.
      - Per Hubert, he reviewed cue several times with leader prior to start.
  - Layout in the park of chairs
    - Xavier – had fewer chairs than in past but felt there were enough for everyone who wanted to sit. Before ceremony started walked to **top of amphitheater, advised to move from top section that's part of ceremony.**
    - Pat – thought number of chairs was good.
    - Hubert – looked beautiful from the stage and in the photos.
    - Kate – looked packed in a good way. Number of chairs: 75.
    - Xavier – **suggests not adding many more, but 75 should be minimum.**
  - Run of show
    - Hubert – asked if there were any issues, comments, or concerns.
      - Xavier – shared it went well; flow was nice. → Others agree.
  - Speakers
    - Pat – thought speakers were good.
    - Hubert – speakers said really pertinent and impactful things.
  - Length of ceremony
    - Pat – thought length of ceremony was fine.
    - Xavier – thought it was good; just the right amount of time.
  - Length of time between parade end and ceremony start
    - Kate – mentioned long gap between parade end and ceremony start.

- Pat – believed delay due to waiting for governor. If waiting time could be filled with music, it would help.
- Xavier – reported in past had music and believes that’s why gap was felt.
- Hubert – think there was confusion with FCCPD and not knowing when to play. They played a little bit but not for the entire preamble time. Suggests submitting quartet troop request ASAP to combat this issue.
- Pat – suggest if no quintet, then phones are great alternative. Stated Alan brought speaker/phone to play music at 11/11 ceremony. Could play appropriate music from the podium to fill the time if no quintet.
  - Xavier – that’s good feedback.
  - Kate – suggest music played by library/stage can be same music.
  - Hubert – will make a patriotic playlist.
  - Alan – personal speaker is Bluetooth; easy to pair device and use. Hopes in future, park will have better sound system to use.
- Pat – another issue was Senator Blumenthal was expected to be there, maybe speak. He came to the parade but left before the ceremony. In relation to governor/senator, noted those are the kind of glitches you can’t do anything about and just have to cover it.
- Alan – suggest advertising 12:45pm ceremony start to help with time gap
  - Kate – stated PSEC changed wording that ceremony would begin immediately after the parade, not 1pm.
  - Xavier – confirmed having those discussions; had removed “1pm start” wording, language changed to immediately following parade.
  - Hubert – noted when did second round of circling back to speak 1-on-1 with VIP staff, that ceremony is immediately after the parade usually around 1pm.
- Gifts for grand marshal
  - Alan – was with the General after ceremony helping identify what had been given to the grand marshal. General may have left some stuff behind without Alan’s assistance. Suggests a bag or something to carry all the items. Thought sash was a bit small on the grand marshal.
    - Kate – ordered same sash size as previous parades. Believes sashes are available in different sizes.
    - Per Alan, General didn’t want to wear sash while he was walking. He wore his uniform. He did wear the sash during the ceremony. Asks for alternatives for grand marshals who wear their uniform and don’t want to wear the sash.
    - Kate – typically grand marshals are riding in a vehicle and the sign on the side would identify them as grand marshal. Since the General wanted to walk, a grand marshal vehicle wasn’t utilized.
- Reminder: any questions can be sent to [StamfordPSEC@StamfordCT.gov](mailto:StamfordPSEC@StamfordCT.gov)
- General discussion (non-agenda items)
  - Board vacancies
    - Xavier – prior to 2024 meeting calendar discussion, announced this would be her last meeting. Her term expired last week but wanted to ensure commission had calendar for next year before she left as it’s due this month. Also shared that Kate will be leaving the commission as well; has moved out of Stamford.
    - Kate – confirms that unfortunately she is no longer a Stamford resident.
    - Xavier – that leaves only Hubert and Dave, unless David’s commission term has also expired. She wants to know if David’s commission term has expired or not, or whether or not he is going to be coming back.
      - Winni – per the Board of Reps website, David’s term has expired. Hasn’t heard from David recently; unsure of his intention to remain on board.
      - Kieran (via chat) “saw David Kaplan, last month, and hasn’t said when he’ll be coming back, to the Patriotic and Special Events Commission.”

- Xavier – asks interim board clerk if she’s heard from Matt Quiñones (Director of Operations) about any new appointees.
  - Winni – has submitted the resignations to the Director of Operations and the Mayor’s office on an ongoing basis. When Joe (Colavito) resigned, that information was submitted to the Director of Operations and the Mayor’s office. The PSEC board is appointed by the Mayor and has to go through the formal process to fill vacancies. Part of the process is working with the relevant political party caucus to submit names to the Board of Reps for approval. Mayor’s office had been working with Republican caucus to fill Joe’s seat. Winni has no further insight as to where they are in the process of filling the vacancies. Both Director of Operations and Mayor’s office are aware of the new vacancies on the board.
  - Xavier – states this leaves Hubert as a team of one starting in January.
- Pat – brought up the following concerns:
  - **Port-o-potty delivered to the wrong place** and had to be moved. Fortunately the Parks & Rec workers always step up to the plate and got it moved.
  - Water – **there was no water at the ceremony** for people which was supposed to be there. She notified Kate, who provided a big water cooler.
    - Per Xavier, water should definitely be there. Surmises everyone thought somebody else was doing it and then nobody did it.
    - Winni asked if Christine/church group was supposed to provide water.
    - Pat clarified that PSEC was supposed to provide water and that was previously agreed to. What Christine does is extra.
  - Stephanie snacks – thought Stephanie did wonderful job having snacks and drinks people could buy. Everyone seemed to like it very much.
  - Brian’s flag - **Fire company brings a truck and hangs the flag behind the park** so backdrop behind everything is a big American flag as opposed to the parking garage ramp. There were cars parked in the spot that made it very difficult. **Advised that property is owned by Nagi. Suggest PSEC reach out to them to keep the parking spots empty for the parade.**
    - Xavier agrees it’s good idea and thanks Pat for bringing it up.
- Xavier – asks what the bank building will be turned into condos or something.
  - Pat – it’s going to be turned into a boutique hotel.
  - Xavier – asks if that’ll change anything with where ceremony is set up, fire truck is staged, etc.
  - Per Pat, she can get more information to share with PSEC going forward. The building will extend upwards, not extending out the back.
  - Xavier – **concerned about construction (i.e. when will it start)** and asks Hubert to put in his notes to be aware of potential impact. → Hubert confirms.
- Kieran shared the following updates during the meeting:
  - Nov 8<sup>th</sup> – testified virtually before Veterans & Military Affairs Committee.
  - Nov 10<sup>th</sup> – visited Brighton Gardens alongside Mayor & others repping SVRC.
  - Nov 11<sup>th</sup> – High Ridge Road incident with Marine Corps veteran. Commends police, fire, EMS for their work. Veteran is recovering at mental health hospital.
  - Nov 11<sup>th</sup> – attended 11/11 ceremony at St. John’s Cemetery.
  - Nov 20<sup>th</sup> – awarded special recognition certificate for work at SVRC.
  - Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> – hosted commemorative ceremony 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of JFK assassination. Received a special proclamation from Mayor Simmons.
  - Toys For Tots – new HQ is 1111 Summer St. Tom Finn, Chris Munger & Jenny.
- Xavier thanked Kieran for his updates and reminded him when those events are coming up to send event details via email to [StamfordPSEC@StamfordCT.gov](mailto:StamfordPSEC@StamfordCT.gov) so PSEC can stay up to date. Congratulates Kieran on his proclamation.
- Pat – Mon Dec 11<sup>th</sup> 3:30pm, Govt Center Christmas tree lighting. There will be a component about military and veterans.
- Alan – tomorrow, Dec 7<sup>th</sup> 2pm, Remembrance Gathering at Veterans Park.



- Pat – asked about time, got notice event was for 12pm.
- Brief discussion between Pat and Alan regarding event time.
- Xavier – confirms email received today from Colleen has event at 2pm.
- Trooper Request
  - Xavier – asks if Hubert wants to submit request now since dates are tentative.
  - Hubert – will put thought to it. It couldn't hurt, if things change, things change.
- Hubert thanked Xavier and Kate for their service to the commission. Shared words how PSEC assisted him when first transitioned from active duty to the reserve. PSEC served as an unofficial bridge between veterans' community and the city. That is in part because of the hours they (Xavier, Kate) gave when no one else was watching. He also expressed gratitude for being able to work with them. As a veteran, appreciated being able to experience the benefits of their work has meant the world. Thanked for their service to the commission, city, but most importantly, to all the other veterans.
  - Pat – echoed Hubert's sentiment. Thanked Kate/Xavier for their willingness to volunteer to do this kind of work. Volunteers are what makes everything work.
  - Xavier – thanked everyone for making it great experience. Advised she's still on the CERT team; perhaps could be at parade on the CERT side. Thanked Kate / Hubert for stepping up. Appreciated them doing so much and so well with it.
- Stamford Veterans Resource Center (SVRC)
  - Xavier – City is hiring a Program Manager for SVRC. Asks people to put it out to their network. <https://www.stamfordct.gov/Home/Components/JobPosts/Job/586/113>
- Kieran shared following updates via email after meeting to be added to the minutes:
  - Sunday, November 5th- Veterans Day parade turned out very well, with the Stamford Veterans Resource Center, American Legion, Toys for Tots, etc, as well as numerous attendees at the ceremony.
  - Wednesday, November 8th- Kieran Edmondson, Volunteer Representative of the Stamford Veterans Resource Center, testified on Zoom with the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, part of the Connecticut General Assembly, by discussing of creating more Veterans Resource Centers, in other towns/cities of the state of Connecticut, as Tom Finn, Alan Gerard, Rev. Winton Hill, Thomas Patterson, and other Stamford residents, showed up in person in Hartford.
  - Friday, November 10th- Kieran Edmondson, along with Mayor Caroline Simmons, Congressman Jim Himes, and other volunteers of the Stamford Veterans Resource Center, went to Brighton Gardens for a brief ceremony, on Veterans Day Eve, by presenting ourselves with senior veteran citizens, and gave out SVRC business cards, to those Seniors.
  - Friday, November 10th- The Residence of Summer Street had a lunch, and a ceremony, from 12:00pm-2:50pm.
  - Saturday, November 11th- at around 8:35am, a mentally ill veteran of the United States Marine Corps, was threatening to hurt others, himself, and his entire family, before police, fire, and EMS held him hostage, by helping him with Thomas Patterson, Marc Brooks, Richard Bennett, Carolyn Stephenson, etc, on High Ridge Road, as he was taken to a mental health facility.
  - Saturday, November 11th- the 11/11 ceremony was held at St. John Park, at 11:00am, led by Alan Gerard.
  - Saturday, November 11th- Veterans Day Mass at St. Mary's Church, and dinner after the ceremony.
  - Monday, November 20th- The Veterans Thanksgiving Appreciation Lunch took place, from 11:30am-1:00pm, on the 4th floor at the Stamford Government Center, in the cafeteria, as volunteers of the Stamford Veterans Resource Center, were presented special recognition certificates, from Mayor Caroline Simmons, for our dedication, service, and volunteerism for local veterans.
  - Wednesday, November 22nd- Kieran Edmondson was holding a commemoration ceremony, for the 60th anniversary of the assassination, of President John F. Kennedy, in the Training Room on the 6th floor, at the

Stamford Government Center, by giving a PowerPoint presentation, and a 25-minute speech, and was given a proclamation, signed by Mayor Simmons, for recounting the life, legacy, service, and leadership of John F. Kennedy.

- Monday, November 27th- Kieran started his second year as a community volunteer, for the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, as the headquarters are currently held at, 1111 Summer Street, in Downtown Stamford.
- Thursday, December 7th- 82nd anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack ceremony, by the Stamford Veterans Park Partnership, Inc., at the Veterans Memorial Park, at 2:00pm.
- Saturday, December 9th- Toys for Tots will be hosting a comedy night show, at the Stamford Diner, from 7:00pm-9:00pm.
- Wednesday, December 20th- The Veterans of Foreign Wars, along with the American Legion Post 3, and the Catholic War Veterans, will be having a holiday party, held at the Belltown Fire Department, starting at 5:30pm, and it's free for post members, and honored guests, and for attendees, including spouses, the cost is \$30.

Meeting adjourned at 3:14 pm

Next regular meeting: January 3, 2024 at 2:00 PM

*Minutes submitted by Winni Paul (interim PSEC board clerk)*