

Minutes

Mayor's Committee on Veterans Affairs

Recreation & Park Division Office

January 25, 2011

Opening:

Gayle Sovinee called the meeting to order

Pledge of Allegiance recited

Gayle welcomed those in attendance and members introduced themselves.

October minutes were reviewed and approved by vote.

Treasury Report:

Our current committee balance is \$951.69. Our Financial Secretary, Lisa Szymanski needed to resign membership due to relocation plans. She had offered to send another representative from AB Tech.

Old Business

1. A flag pole and post was donated for our use by American Legion post 526. Kim Spangle had offered to provide the committee with an eraser board for our use as needed. Pam Kelly donated a flag and Broward Flag Company donated the accessories to hang the flag.
2. Recap and discussion of the Veterans Day Event: It was reported that communication between the VA voluntary service and the committee point of contact needs to improve. For example, our committee was not recognized on the program even though we had purchased and distributed posters, paid a portion of the rental of the chairs and had American Legion Post 526 volunteers assist with chair set up and removal. It was difficult to hear the key speaker and no water was provided. Richard Leatherman offered to be the committee point of contact for the next Veterans Day event.
3. Attendance: The committee attendance Bylaws were referenced in the Jan 26, 2010 minutes. It was agreed by the members to have the chair contact through e-mail those members that have missed three or more meetings in a row (excused and non-excused), to determine if they wish to remain members. Members are asked to have a representative come to the meetings if they are unable to attend.

New Business:

1. Memberships: Brian Eubanks has ended his membership due to other time commitments. He has offered to assist as needed with scheduled events. Kim Elam has not been able to attend and is no longer a committee member.
2. Veterans Forum: The subcommittee met on Monday January 18 and sent out minutes to all members. Congressman Shuler will not be available to attend in March. The members voted to approve March 12@2-5:00 at Veterans Quarters 1329 Tunnel Road as the day and location for the forum. Members were asked to email Kim Spangle and Ken Vasilik with the names of individuals they would like to invite as vendors and panel members by the close of February 10. Some individuals of interest identified were John Shaw, Ellen White, Eddie Padget County Service Officers and Ron Hairston Regional Office Homeless Coordinator. Kim asked members to email to him the names of those in the DAV or other organizations that are providing transportation to veteran and may want to be a vendor.
3. Goal Setting: We briefly reviewed our 2010 goals of increasing collaboration with other veterans groups in the area and hosting veteran oriented events. Our goals for 2011 include completing a veteran's forum event, Veterans Day, Memorial Day and Bel Char development planning and inviting those interested to participate in the committee.

Announcements:

1. The Red Cross will be hosting a job fair this coming June.
2. From February 11-14 the 105th MP will be returning. There is a planned welcome home event at the Trinity Baptist Church.
3. Bele Cher will be on July 29th-July 31st this year. Our booth app has been submitted.
4. A Comp and Pension clinic has now opened at the Charles George VAMC
5. Buncombe County Public Schools will be open half day on Memorial Day.
6. The NC National Guard is hosting a veteran partnership committee.

Scott Pitillo, the committee's Special Events person will keep us informed monthly of any upcoming events especially those the mayor may want to attend.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 22@1:00 Recreation Park 72 Gashes Creek Road.