

THE MAYOR'S COMMITTEE FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF THE 3/22/11 MEETING

The meeting convened at 1:00 pm.

Those attending: Gayle Sovinee, Chairperson, Jan Banks, Allison Bond, Andrew Clark, Richard Leatherman, Jason Martin, Scott Pittillo, Gayle Sovinee, Pam Kelly
Guests: Alisa Hamilton, Ron Kennedy

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Introductions were made by the attendees.

Motion made, seconded and passed that the minutes of the 2/22/11 meeting be accepted.

There being no committee treasurer present, there was no treasurer's report. However, Pam Kelly stated that there was no financial activity from the previous month.

Old Business

Membership and Attendance

Continuing the discussion from last month's meeting, it was decided that when a member has at least 3 unexcused absences in a year, the Chairperson will discuss with the member their interest and ability to continue as a committee member. As may then be indicated, the member will either be continued or dropped from the Committee. The By-laws now state in **Section 3. Attendance**

A. Members are expected to attend a minimum of 60% of regular scheduled meetings during an operating year (May 1 - April 30) with a maximum of three consecutive unexcused absences.

B. The Chairperson may excuse certain absences at his/her discretion.

C. The committee may declare any officer's position vacant if said officer fails to comply with attendance policy, or is removed "for cause".

D. The committee may decline to offer a member's name for reappointment due to failure to comply with attendance requirements.

E. If an active member is not able to attend a regular meeting, he or she may approve a "deputy" a.k.a. an alternate person to attend and vote by proxy in his or her place.

The need for active members necessitates the need for these actions. Some of the reasons for prior resignations were two of the members said they were too busy without having chair to ask; one has not been able to attend for a year due to their schedule so chair needed to send a letter asking for their resignation; one left because of personal health issues and the other because they are moving out of state.

Veterans Forum after Action

Andy Clark the Subcommittee Chair reported on the March 12th outreach as well as other participating members. Before April 1st, Andy Clark agreed to post on our website the key issues addressed by each panelist at the Forum. More discussion needs to be made how often to have the Forum, time of year and location. It was mentioned, in order to reach more veterans, to have it in different locations throughout the area.

Open discussion included the following:

- There was good panel and vendor representation
- Holding the event once every two years was suggested
- More advertising may bring a larger number of veterans
- Suggestion to have different panels members and more vendors

New Business

Application for Membership

Ron Kennedy application will be sent to the members for review and to vote on at April meeting.

Review of Bylaws

The members reviewed the Bylaws. It was recommend to change the Veterans Forum name to Veterans Outreach and to add this to Article V. C

Nomination of Officers for new team

Nomination for Chair is Ken Vasilik, Vice Chair is Michael Reich, Treasurer (financial secretary) is Debra Collington and Secretary is Richard Leatherman. Elections will be held at the April meeting.

Memorial Day Event

Allison Bond agreed to Chair a subcommittee for this event. Members are encouraged to volunteer for this subcommittee by calling Allison. Debra Collington and Andy Clark indicated their desire to volunteer.

The event will be held on Monday, May 30th (observed Memorial Day) at City-County Plaza starting at 3pm. Sandra Travis will continue as the City Parks & Rec coordinator. We will need to have prices for the budgeted items for the Memorial Wreath and programs by the April meeting so that they can be approved before the end of the present fiscal year.

Bele Cher

A location request has already been submitted for the MCVA booth. It is the same space as last year at the corner of Battery Park and Haywood St. The booth that is used needs waterproof side walls and the MCVA sign needs better support in the middle. Gayle has

agreed to again head the subcommittee for Bele Cher this year and has already started getting names from veteran support groups who would like to work shifts at the event. The \$250 set aside from this year's budget will only cover the canopy sides and supports for our MCVA banner. Budget for whiteboard/easel may have to wait until the next budget. This will be discussed at April meeting.

A signup sheet for manning the booth will be circulated to the members and service organizations.

Announcements and Comments

Walt Plaue sent a proposal asking for either on Memorial Day or Veterans Day that Scott Rogers of ABCCM be recognized for his contribution to homeless and jobless veterans in our community. It was voted by the committee that this should take place during our Veterans Day event.

Also announced that the Vietnam War traveling wall, the "Wall That Heals" will be coming to the area and displayed at the Harley Davidson Distributorship in Swannanoa. The Vietnam Veterans of America local chapter 124 is requesting financial support. Contact is Lester Bullock at 281-3174, lebcpa@bellsouth.net. Also, more info can be gotten from Spider Trantham of Chapter 124 at spidroadglide@gmail.com.

Ruth Planey of the Pack Square Park Conservancy is planning to host the Air National Guard Band of the South in June. She had requested some guidance and financial support from the committee. We lack sufficient funds to contribute to this event but her email has been forwarded to some of our members to provide helpful guidance.

Mayor Terry Bellamy will be providing a proclamation of women veteran's history on March 23 from 12 to 1:00pm at City Hall room BB04.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 26 at 1:00 pm Recreation Division Office, 72 Gashes Creed Road, East Asheville (same property as the Nature Center).