

THE MAYOR'S COMMITTEE FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF THE 5/24/11 MEETING

The meeting convened at 1:00 pm.

Those attending: Gayle Sovinee, Mary Albert, Mary Chakales, Debra Collington, Jan Banks, Allison Bond, Andrew Clark, Richard Leatherman, Michael Reich, Josh O'Conner, Ron Kennedy, Jason Martin, Lana Greer, Guests: Brian Eubanks

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Introductions were made by the attendees.

Motion made, seconded and passed that the minutes of the 4/26/11 meeting be accepted.

Gayle Sovinee turned the meeting over to the new Chair person, Josh O'Conner

Debra Covington is our new elected financial secretary. She asked members to turn over to her any expenditure receipts so that she may reimburse them from our budget. The committee has been approved for \$1000.00 budget that begins this July.

Old Business

Gayle reported having purchased the following items:

1. White board \$159.68
2. Tarp for canopy cover \$40.00
3. Battery operated fan \$21.48
4. Table cloths \$25.00
5. Cooler \$29.87

Andy requested a vote to approve the purchase of Microphone covers with an expected cost of \$13 each and two canopy sides which would cost approximately \$200.00. Motion made, seconded and passed approving these expenditures.

Allison purchased Memorial Day programs costing \$105.00

Any expenditure for this year's budget needs to be made prior to mid June.

New Business

Applications for membership Motion was made, seconded and passed to approve Mary Albert to membership. Mary works at AB Technical College as the Veterans Coordinator.

Memorial Day Event Allison Bond reviewed the Memorial Day program. The event will be held on Monday, May 30th (observed Memorial Day) at City-County Plaza Pack Square Park starting at 3pm. Set up will begin at 12 noon. Andy and Jan agreed to pick up flags from Darlene Laughter Chief of Voluntary Services at 11:30 Black Mountain Cemetery and bring them to Pack Square. Josh reported that the county parking garage on College Street will be donating proceeds to a local veteran's organization.

During discussion concerning add-on programming at events sponsored by the committee, it was decided that the committee needed to put in a place a formal policy to guide outside organizations who wished to be part of the committee's ceremony. A motion was made, seconded and passed that any outside organization will need to present a written proposal to the committee 90 days prior to any of our sponsored events if they wish to be included in a program. At the meeting immediately following the proposal submittal a member of the organization would need to make a presentation to the committee for formal approval by the committee at large. There was some discussion that there would be some amount of flexibility in the policy for events occurring prior to the Veterans Day 2011 event. The policy will be disseminated to the Mayor and on the City website to ensure that outside groups are aware of it.

There was discussion of the request that the committee had received from Walt Plaué to recognize an individual's service to the Veterans Community. The Memorial Day subcommittee had felt that such a presentation was not in line with the spirit of Memorial Day and had deferred the possibility of such a presentation to a future event. Michael was asked to speak with Walt Plaué to gain a better understanding of the nature of the presentation and to report back to the committee so that a decision could be made regarding integrating it into the Veterans Day ceremony.

Bele Cher Gayle reported that the booth will be at the same space as last year at the corner of Battery Park and Haywood St. The event runs from July 29-31. Set up will begin that Thursday night. Ron Kennedy offered to facilitate getting volunteers to help with set up and tear down.

A signup sheet for manning the booth in three hour increments was circulated among the members. Gayle requested volunteers for the subcommittee. Ron Kennedy and Brian Eubanks volunteered.

Announcements, Comments and Closing

- The veterans cemetery in Black Mountain will have a memorial day remembrance 5/30@10:00
- The committee would like to reserve the Recreation Division Office conference room for use the remainder this year.
- Josh presented the idea of having a pot luck lunch for the committee his coming November. Members were interested.

- Jan reported that this July the county plans to ship donated items to active duty members serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Andy requested that the Mayor be asked to support the Highway Hero's efforts to rename local roads that are connected to Veterans Cemeteries
- The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Way will be coming to the Harley Davidson Dealer location in Swannanoa September 28.
- Josh identified an initiative named the ESGR Patriot Award that helps to settle employer employee disputes around deployment and drills.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 28 at 1:00 pm Recreation Division Office, 72 Gashes Creed Road, East Asheville (same property as the Nature Center).