

THE MAYOR'S COMMITTEE FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF THE 9/27/11 MEETING

The meeting convened at 1:00 pm.

Those attending: , Mary Albert, Jan Banks, Allison Bond, Andrew Clark, Mel Joines, Richard Leatherman, Josh O'Conner, Michael Reich, Gayle Sovinee; Ken Vasilik Guests: Karle Katterjohn, Jessica Cannon, Patricia Gandette

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Introductions were made by the attendees.

Motion made, seconded and passed that the 8/23/11 meeting minutes be accepted with the change of the word gift to the word "promotional items".

Treasurer's Report: Budget balance remains unchanged since last report.

Old Business

Annual Report: Josh reported having reviewed the report with the Mayor. She asked that we continue to support existing events to remain consistent with our goals. She express satisfaction with the progress we have made.

Veterans Day: The committee discussed planning for the event that included the following:

- Andy Clark or Jerome Jones as key note speaker
- Darcell Grimes of Channel 13 as MC or Kit Crammer of the chamber of commerce Josh offered to speak with both.
- Rockel Whiteside as the singer
- We will attempt to schedule the event at the Memorial Stadium November 11 @ 3:00pm. The Mayor plans to follow up with Parks and Recreation to secure this location
- Mr. Fetter will be doing a reading from a WWII letter.
- Gayle plans to contact Julie and request Doves
- Contact will be made with Colonel Done and Asheville AF Weather Squadron for their support and participation.

Stand Down: Allison reported that this VA outreach event successfully occurred at the Stephens Lee Recreational Center 30 G W Carver Avenue on September 22 @ 9-12:00 NOON. 195 veterans attended the event and were provided community services and clothing supplies. 23 agencies and over 30 volunteers participated. Parking continues to

present as a problem. Josh offered to request parking be made available at the Public Works Building at the next year's event.

NCMVP: Allison reported having attending this event. There were between 20-30 different for profit and none profit agencies sharing information about their services. This event is scheduled bi monthly at different site locations.

Committee Potluck is scheduled to occur on December 13@1:00 at the Veterans Quarters. We plan to review our committee goals. Richard volunteered to put together a food sign-up list. Josh offered to purchase a Ham from committee funds.

New Business

Meeting with the Mayor: Josh had asked the Mayor to consider making Veterans Day a city holiday and to support a plan to make committee credit card reimbursements.

Application for membership: Amber Banks was not present. We will take her off the list unless she expresses interest again. Karl Katterjon introduced himself as a Air Force veteran and retired physician assistant. Motion was made, seconded and passed to approve Karl for committee membership.

Presentation by Jessica Cannon of Montreat College: The college offers a 20% discount to veterans. They have evening classes for adults that are working. There will be an open housing on Oct. 27 and Nov 1 from 6:30-8:00 at the campus.

Veterans Forum discussion will be table until October meeting

City of Asheville and Veterans hiring practices: Josh reported that there is a plan for a staff member from the city to meet with this committee to discuss hiring practices.

Announcements, Comments and Closing

- The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall will be coming to the Harley Davidson Dealer location in Swannanoa September 28.
- Jan suggested be consider developing MCVA committee name tag to ware at sponsored events.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 25 at 1:00 pm Recreation Division Office, 72 Gashes Creed Road, East Asheville (same property as the Nature Center).