

THE MAYOR'S COMMITTEE FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF THE 2/28/12 MEETING

The meeting convened at 1:00 pm.

Those attending: Mary Albert, Jan Banks, Allison Bond, Andrew Clark, Karl Katterjohn, Ron Kennedy, Richard Leatherman, Josh O'Conner, Michael Reich, Gayle Sovinee; Kenneth Vasilik

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Introductions were made by the attendees.

Motion made, seconded and passed that the January meeting minutes be accepted

Treasurer's Report: Deferred to next meeting.

Old Business

Memorial Day 2012: Josh, Allison, Andy and Ken reported that action planning continues to move forward. People on proposed agenda will be contacted to verify scheduling. The event is scheduled to occur May 28@2:00 at Pack Square Plaza. Josh reminded us that the 90 day deadline per policy has now passed for outside groups to be added to the events agenda.

Committee Restructuring: Josh reported having discussed with the Mayor the committee be partnered with an existing city or county office possible Parks and Recreation as an advisory board. Current membership would remain unchanged. The Mayor supported this restructuring plan and directed it to be completed within the next three months. The members reviewed the following restructuring plan:

Committee Restructuring – Potential Organization

28-Feb-2012 Discussion

General Mission Statement

The Mission of this Board is to recognize the role played by veterans in the defense of this country, and to promote equal and inclusive opportunities for veterans and their families in all aspects of society, including employment, transportation, housing, health and education, and to identify and support all individuals and organizations that contribute to this mission. This Board will also advise City and County elected officials regarding issues pertinent to veterans and their well-being.

Overall Architecture of Board

1. Would request that any changes made would not take place retroactively. All current members in good standing would be transitioned on to new committee for a period of one year before transitioning off the committee (with the opportunity for a reappointment).
2. Would adhere to all applicable standards of North Carolina Open Meetings Law
3. While no mandatory positions are currently documented in bylaws such positions could be identified as board evolves (specifically speaking of having individuals from standing veterans organizations.
4. Eliminate internal Treasurer position within the Committee to avoid any potential complications with fiscal issues. Move to direct acquisition rather than reimbursement system.
5. Would provide governmental bodies with 2/3 of appointments and committee with 1/3 of appointments. Applications would be taken by Clerk's office.
6. Would eliminate rotating terms.
7. Would request specific staff liaison to insure that all legal requirements are being met.
8. Would constrain Committee's geographic boundaries to Buncombe County (for those with organizational affiliations this would pertain to the organization's address rather than the individual's home address; however, the organization must have a presence within Buncombe County).
9. Would request that current events remain in place.
 - a. Memorial Day
 - b. Veterans Forum
 - c. Bele Chere
 - d. Veterans Day
10. Would provide a specific reporting structure so that a staff person could ensure that information is communicated between the Committee and appropriate elected bodies.

Follow up on Goal Setting Initiative: Our plan will be to advise the city council of plan to restructure committee and of 2012 Calendar as follows:

- Memorial Day in May
- Stand Down in September
- Veterans Day in November
- Veterans Forum in April
- Bele Chere in July

New Business

Membership: Motion made, seconded and passed that CPT Mike Lathrop be approved for membership. Mike serves in the Army as co-commander of local recruitment.

2012 Goals Setting: Josh asked members to consider what we would like to continue doing as a committee this coming year. We will discuss further at the next meeting.

2012 Calendar Update:

- Memorial Day in May
- Stand Down in September
- Veterans Day in November
- Veterans Forum in April
- Bele Chere in July
- Goombay the end of August

Agenda for March: Gayle asked for members to notify her of sub-committee interest to begin planning for Bele Chere in July

Richard plans to provide an update on committee attendance since October 2011.

Announcements, Comments and Closing

1. USO Volunteers Needed For Saturday's, March 31, 2012
Charlotte Speedway Vietnam Veterans Homecoming Celebration.

Our Vietnam Veterans never received the homecoming they deserved.

USO of North Carolina,
Charlotte Motor Speedway,
North Carolina Broadcasting Association,
are hosting a long, overdue homecoming celebration.

The Vietnam Veterans Homecoming Celebration 2012 will be an unforgettable experience
Featuring:
live entertainment,
displays,
demonstrations,
military salutes,
and much more!

The USO of North Carolina is looking for volunteers to help out with this great event!

The following shifts available:

8:00 am to 12:00 pm (4 Hrs) - 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm (4 Hrs) or 8:00 am to 4:00 pm (8 Hrs).

All volunteers must be able to stand and move around for the entire shift.

Volunteer duties will vary and we will do our best to accommodate specific requests.

If you, your friends, or group would like to participate, please email welcomhomevolunteer@uso-nc.org

Name

Email Address

Cell Phone Number

Shift Preference (1st, 2nd shifts, or both)

When your request is received, we will contact you with confirming details.

For more information on the 2012 Vietnam Veterans Celebration

http://www.charlottespeedway.com/tickets/vietnam_veterans_homecoming_celebration/

Thank you!

USO-NC



NORTH CAROLINA
AMVETS CAREER CENTER 1
MON - WED - FRI 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
PFEIFFER UNIVERSITY – JANE FREEMAN HALL
48380 US HIGHWAY 52 – MISENHEIMER, NC 28109
AMVET@FSMAIL.PFEIFFER.EDU
NCAMVETSCAREERCENTER1.WS
[704-463-3026](tel:704-463-3026)

2. John Mitchell shared that Scott Rogers of ABCCM will be reporting to the Veterans Affairs subcommittee this March in Washington about their partnership with the VAMC in providing services to homeless veterans.
3. Gayle announced that Helios Warriors has moved to 251-D Haywood Street and will be hosting an open house on March 7@4:30.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 27@1pm at the Recreation Division Office 72 Gashes Creek Road.