

## **THE MAYOR'S COMMITTEE FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS**

### **MINUTES OF THE 1/24/12 MEETING**

The meeting convened at 1:00 pm.

Those attending: Allison Bond, 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 10/25/11 meeting minutes be accepted

Treasurer's Report: Deferred to next meeting.

#### **2012 Housekeeping Issues:**

Membership report: Jason Martin and Mel Joines have resigned committee membership  
Meeting Schedule: Our meeting scheduled and location will remain the same for 2012.

#### **Old Business**

December Potluck follow up: Richard read our committee goals as posted on the city website and past goal setting discussions. The members discussed moving forward the discussion with the Mayor about making the committee an official city committee maybe attached to the Parks and Recreation budget. Motion was made, seconded and approved to open discussion with the Mayor. Josh plans to follow up with the with the Mayor. Karl reported that there is a growing need for services to veterans and current reservists with TBI and PTSD. There appears to be gaps in the continuum of care to this population. Maryland appears to have a functioning system in operation with the Army Reserves, National Guard, Department of Defense and VA. John Mitchell agreed to work with Karl and Josh on developing some strategies to look at this issue.

Memorial Day 2012: Josh, Allison and Ken agreed to form a subcommittee manage the logistics. The USS Asheville recognition will be a part of the program.

Name tags: motion made, seconded and passed to use \$150.00 from budget to pay for business cards and \$50.00 for lanyards and sleeves.

Bele Chere: Gayle reported that she has requested booth 1503 for our July 27-29 community out- reach.

Honor and Remember flag: Jan reported that ten states have taken action to recognize and fly this flag at veterans events or present to the families of fallen soldiers.

### **New Business**

Membership: Motion made, seconded and passed that Rafael Jimenez be approved for membership. Rafael served in the United States Air Force and was retired honorable. He has his own business doing video production documentary and weddings.

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

### **Announcements, Comments and Closing**

January 31@6:00pm City of Asheville will host a town hall meeting at the Haw Creek Elementary School.

Gayle announced that a Major Charles Hall associated with Wounded Warriors wants to open a chapter in the Columbia SC area for veterans interested in developing business relationships. She also reported that Helios is now located at 251 Haywood Street and is scheduled to have their grand opening on March 7 from 4:30-5:30pm.

Ken announced that the USS Asheville sub returned to home port in December. The C.O. was selected for the Navy's stock dale leadership award.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 28@1pm at the Recreation Division Office 72 Gashes Creek Road.