

THE MAYOR'S COMMITTEE FOR VETRANS AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF THE 10/23/12 MEETING

The Meeting convened at 1:00pm at the Gashes Creek Road Recreation Division Office.

Those attending: Jan Banks, Mayor Terry Bellamy, Debra Collington, Karl Katterjohn, Ron Kennedy, Mike Lathrop, Richard Leatherman, Michael Reich, Gayle Sovinee, Ken Vasilik

Guests: Alyce Knaflich,

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Introductions were made by the attendees.

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

Treasurer's Report: Ron Kennedy reported the balance of our budget to be \$976.00

Old Business

Veterans Day Ceremony: Alyce reported that the November 11 @ 11:00 event will be held at the VAMC. The agenda is to have guest speakers from each period of war. Our members are welcome to attend but will not be needed as volunteers or for logistic support.

Memorandum requesting proclamation for U.S. Army Day: Mayor Bellamy asked Captain Lathrop to send her an email that she may forward to Tom Downing to get him to develop the proclamation for her signature. He will contact Mike when it is complete and signed.

Holiday meeting schedule: There will not be a meeting in November. Our December 11 @ 1:00 meeting will be held at the Veterans Restoration Quarters and will be catered by Vet Quarters staff. Michael requested that members interested in attending send him and email.

New Business

Committees future: We have a current membership of eleven. Nine members are required to continue as a committee. There were questions as to our purpose and existence at this time. Our role to support Memorial Day and Veterans Day events appears to have decreased over the last year.

Mayor Bellemy asked each member why they are on this committee.

Members indicated the following reasons:

1. to recognize the USS Asheville
2. helping with planning Memorial and Veterans Day events
3. veteran awareness and information at Bele Cher
4. shape veterans programming opportunities
5. to show that we care about veterans
6. to provide ongoing information to the NC National Guard programs
7. to represent veterans staying at the Veterans Restoration Quarters
8. to advocate for veterans for jobs
9. to support the Honor and Remember Flag
10. to continue to make veterans aware of voluntary opportunities to give back

Mayor Bellamy reviewed our history and purpose which included making sure Memorial Day occurred as a City hosted event and to recognize the USS Asheville. She reported that veterans continue to call her office requesting veteran focused information. She recognized the value of our outreach to veterans and the community at large during the Bele Cher event. Moving forward she would like us to think about and focus on the following:

1. Planning for a Veterans Community Voluntary Service Day. Maybe called a Day of Caring.
2. Continue supporting Memorial Day event and Bele Cher
3. Sharing veteran specific information to include vocational training and job opportunities
4. Push for veterans to be on the City boards and commissions.
5. Support City H. R. making veterans aware of jobs

The Mayor asked us to think about changing our meeting time to either the first or third Tuesday so as not to be a conflict with City Council day.

Upcoming Events

1. Buncombe County Veterans Council meeting Nov. 8@6:00 Dinner followed by mtg. Location American Legion Post (851 Haywood Road) Asheville.
2. AARP Free driver safety refresher courses for military veterans and their spouses during November 20 and 27 at the Charles George VAMC. Point of contact is voluntary service 828-299-2514.
3. North Carolina State Veterans Home in Black Mountain Open House on October 28@1-5:00pm
4. Area restaurants will be offering free meals to veterans on Veterans Day. If interested you may call that business to verify if they are participants.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2013 at 1:00pm at the Recreation Division Office on Gashes Creek Rd.