

SUMMARY MINUTES

Veterans Advisory Board Meeting April 20, 2023 – 5:30 P.M. City Hall – Commission Chamber

A. CALL TO ORDER BY: Thaddeus Hamilton, Chair, at 5:30 P.M.

B. ROLL CALL

Thaddeus Hamilton, Chair
Brenda Covin Senior
Stanley Bostic – **Absent Excused**
Mark Shultz
Kenton Isackson – **Absent Excused**
Robert Latimer
Stanley Leibowitz
Eshia McLymont
Norman Rothfeld
Lance Dickman
Loretta Young

Emilie Smith – Deputy City Manager
Stephanie Joseph – Administrative Assistant I

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

D. OPEN PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Juan Flores (Operation Secret Trust) – The Veterans Coalition of Coral Springs currently has the Vietnam moving wall which is located at the Coral Springs Sports Plex from May 4th – 7th. Volunteers are needed to stand post near the moving wall.

Mission United will be hosting a Walk to Remember event. Volunteers are needed to assist with passing out water. Date: May 29, 2023. For more information, please contact Matt from the Mission United Advisory Board at (410)688-1789.

E. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 16, 2023 MINUTES

Member Hamilton asked for a motion to approve the February 16, 2023 minutes, a motion was made by Member Shultz and was seconded by Member Young, and the Board approved unanimously.

F. OLD BUSINESS

a. Discuss other ways to assist Veterans (Continued)

Member Shultz shared his experience with the Moose Lodge in Tamarac and suggested allocating a parking lot for homeless Veterans that do not have a place to stay. Member Rothfeld classified the circumstance as almost homeless Veterans.

Mr. Flores explained that Miami has six transitional housing programs and Broward County currently has no transitional housing programs. The issue with transitional housing through the Veterans Affairs (VA) is that Veterans are only given three opportunities in the program. Mr. Flores suggested that communities come together and fund through the county to create transitional housing in Broward County.

Member Rothfeld suggested utilizing hotels and also suggested that Sunrise connects with nearby cities to help address the issue.

Emilie explained that the city does not permit overnight parking. The city would also face challenges including discrimination and evictions.

Mr. Flores also explained another issue. Broward County only has 500 shelter beds with over 1800 people currently homeless.

Member McLymont explained the HUD-VASH program. To qualify Veterans must be homeless for at least a year.

Emilie inquired about the Homeless facility in the City of Hollywood. Mr. Flores explained that the county used to fund the facility. They currently function on their own without funds from the county.

Member Latimer suggested making use of the vacant land or parking lots in Sunrise. Member Shultz suggested tiny home living.

Emilie inquired about programs for Veterans that are homeless. The Board explained that some Veterans are not aware of the programs and some programs are difficult to get into.

Mr. Flores informed the Board that Mission United is funded through United Way. The VA is currently promoting the Shallow Subsidy Program which can help pay up to 50% of rent on a unit that is deemed rent reasonable for 2 years. The issue is the landlord and rent increase. Mr. Flores also explained their contract to serve is 910 Veterans a year. Operations Scared Trust is currently at 1,067 Veterans for the end of the second quarter.

b. Discuss Military Vehicles Display at Veterans Day Event – Fred Perkins

Member Hamilton encouraged the Board to visit the site and view the vehicles.

G. NEW BUSINESS

H. BOARD MEMBER'S DISCUSSION

Member Dickman shared a Proclamation of Paralyzed Veterans of America with the Board. Member Hamilton requested a signed copy of the proclamation.

Member Young shared a fundraiser event. All proceeds will be given to JROCT for scholarships. Date: April 22nd, 2023. Location: Spring Tree Golf Course. The Yearend Awards will be taking place on May 18th, 2023 at Pompano High School.

Member Dickman informed the Board about the American Legion meeting taking place on April 25, 2023.

I. NEXT BOARD MEETING: THURSDAY, MAY 18th, 2023

Location: City Commission Chamber
Address: 10770 West Oakland Park Boulevard

J. ADJOURNMENT AT 6:16 P.M.

Member Shultz made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Member Dickman seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned by Chair Hamilton.

Transcribed by: Stephanie Joseph, Board Secretary/ *Stephanie Joseph*

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or commission concerning any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he/she will need a record of the proceedings, and, for such purpose, he may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. F.S.S. 286.0105.