

SUMMARY MINUTES

Veterans Advisory Board Meeting May 18, 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

Mark Shultz

Kenton Isackson

Robert Latimer

Stanley Leibowitz

Eshia McLymont – **Absent not Excused**

Norman Rothfeld

Lance Dickman

Loretta Young – **Absent Excused**

Emilie Smith – Deputy City Manager

Juliana Castro – Administrative Officer II

Amanda Tomlinson - Senior Services Director

Officer David Forteza – Liaison for the City of Sunrise
Police Department

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

D. OPEN PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Representative Dunkley gave an update on her 2023 Veteran-related bills. She said the legislation is prioritizing the needs of our Veterans and that it is making Florida the friendliest State for Veterans. She explained that she has a great relationship with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and that any Board member is welcome to reach out to her if they need any assistance.

E. APPROVAL OF APRIL 20, 2023 MINUTES

Chair Hamilton asked for a motion to approve the April 20, 2023 minutes, a motion was made by Member Rothfeld and was seconded by Member Dickman, and the

Board approved unanimously.

F. OLD BUSINESS

a. Discuss Memorial and Veterans Day – Amanda Tomlinson (Senior Services Director)

Amanda gave an update on the Memorial Day Ceremony. She said it will be similar to last year. It will be in the Sunrise Civic Center Theater starting at 9:00 am. Member Young will have the American Legion table set up.

Amanda will start planning the Veterans Day Ceremony after the Memorial Day Ceremony. Representative Dunkley suggested that the Board make the Veterans Day Ceremony a family event, with activities for kids.

Chair Hamilton asked Member Dickman to prepare a thank you letter for Chief Rosa. Emilie will forward Member Dickman's letter to the Board for input. Member Hamilton asked about Chief Rosa's retirement. Emilie said that the Police Department is doing an event for him on 5/31/23 at 12:00 pm at the Public Safety Building and the Board is welcome to come.

Amanda said the Panthers are in the process of recognizing WWII Veterans. If anyone would like to recommend somebody that has a special story, please email Amanda and she will send it to the Panthers. If they get picked, they will need to fill out an online form and prepare a video.

b. Discuss other ways to assist Veterans (Continued)

Member Shultz asked Representative Dunkley if there were any programs or resources for homeless veterans. Representative Dunkley said that the legislature didn't have any discussion on it. Member Rothfeld said the homeless are in need of resources.

Member Isackson shared that he visited the Department of Veterans Affairs and he met a person that served for 2 years but is not considered a Veteran, he is a Humanitarian, therefore he doesn't qualify to get any Veterans benefits and he needs help.

Member Rothfeld said it's very difficult to get the names of the Homeless Veterans because of privacy laws. He believes the Board has to educate the homeless about the benefits that are available.

Member Isackson believes Veterans need to be educated about their benefits as soon they arrive, that way they can tackle the homeless problems before it even happens.

Chair Hamilton & Member Isackson recommend that a VA representative come and speak at the next Board meeting. Amanda will contact Owen Walker to speak at a future Board meeting.

Member Isackson would like someone from the City of Sunrise Police Department that works with the homeless task force to come and talk with the board. Officer Forteza will contact the City's representative and schedule. Officer Forteza will bring the laminated document that has important phone numbers to an upcoming Board meeting so it can be added to the informational packet that the Board compiled.

G. NEW BUSINESS

H. BOARD MEMBER'S DISCUSSION

Member Dickman shared that August 1st is the City of Sunrise Police Department National Night Out Against Crime at the Public Safety Building from 6 pm to 9 pm. The American legend will be there.

Member Isackson attended the "The Moving Wall" Vietnam Memorial in Coral Springs. He shared that it was worth seeing, it has so much history.

Chair Hamilton attended the 55 Years of Lions' Pride at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. He brought the program to share with the Board.

I. NEXT BOARD MEETING: THURSDAY, JUNE 15TH, 2023

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

J. ADJOURNMENT AT 6:41 P.M.

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

Transcribed by: Juliana Castro, Board Secretary/ *Juliana Castro*

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.