

SUMMARY MINUTES

**Veterans Advisory Board Meeting
June 15, 2023 – 5:30 P.M.
City Hall – Commission Chamber**

A. CALL TO ORDER BY: Stanley Leibowitz, Vice-Chair, at 5:30 P.M.

B. ROLL CALL

Thaddeus Hamilton, Chair – **Absent Excused**
Brenda Covin Senior – **Absent Excused**
Stanley Bostic
Mark Shultz
Kenton Isackson
Robert Latimer – **Absent not Excused**
Stanley Leibowitz
Eshia McLymont – **Absent not Excused**
Norman Rothfeld
Lance Dickman
Loretta Young

Sean Dinneen – Assistant City Manager
Stephanie Joseph – Administrative Assistant I
Officer David Forteza – Liaison for the City of Sunrise
Police Department

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

D. OPEN PUBLIC DISCUSSION

E. APPROVAL OF MAY 18, 2023 MINUTES

Vice-Chair Leibowitz asked for a motion to approve the May 18, 2023 minutes, a motion was made by Member Isackson and was seconded by Member Dickman, and the Board approved unanimously.

F. OLD BUSINESS

a. Fitzroy Grizzle - Veterans Service Officer (VSO) – Broward County

Mr. Grizzle introduced himself to the Board and provided a brief background about himself and his experience as a Broward County Veterans Service Officer.

Broward County's Elderly and Veterans Services Division provides free advocacy and claims assistance services to Broward County's Veterans and their families.

This assistance is provided to Veterans and their dependents at no cost. Services include assistance with Veteran benefits and entitlements, Assessing the need for additional agency and community support services, and referrals to additional agency and community resources. Mr. Grizzle explained that Broward County does not have special funds to house Veterans.

Member Isackson inquired about how and where Veterans would access what benefits are due for them. Mr. Grizzle explained that benefits are given to Veterans on a needed basis. The Veteran would reach out to the Veterans Affairs for certain issues to assist those needs.

Member Rothfeld inquired about Broward County's Elderly and Veterans Services Division reaching out to homeless Veterans. Mr. Grizzle explained that the Veterans Services Division does not reach out to homeless Veterans. Veterans will need to reach out to Broward County with a need for further assistance.

Mr. Grizzle shared 5 steps to address the homeless issue in Broward County.

1. Public Pledge
2. Housing First
3. Universal Screening
4. Ambitious short-term and long-term goals
5. Change transitional housing into supporting housing

The Board expressed their concern for the County not having any structure in regard to placing homeless Veterans in housing without having to wait a long period of time.

Member Rothfeld suggested that the Health issue be addressed first as a priority. Member Rothfeld explained that some Veterans may not be interested in housing and suggested having a mobile medical van assist homeless people that do not have housing.

Member Isackson asked what the City's procedures are if they come across homeless Veterans. Sean explained that the City of Sunrise social worker will work with Broward County to assist the homeless but all programs are handled by the County.

Member Bostic suggested incorporating an encampment in Broward County and coordinating with doctors and dentists to bring the process to life.

Kenton asked if the Board can meet with the Commission to further discuss the homeless issue. Sean explained that he will speak with Emilie regarding the request to speak with the Commission.

b. Sunrise Homeless Task Force Pamphlets

Officer Forteza provided the board with copies of the Sunrise Homeless Task Force Pamphlet. Officer Forteza suggested that the Board send him any contact information that would be useful to include in the pamphlet.

c. 4th of July Parade

Member Shultz may possibly be able to provide a car but he is not sure as of yet. Member Bostic offered to take part in the parade with Member Shultz.

d. Former Chief Rosa Veteran's Appreciation letter

The Board reviewed and approved Chief Rosa's Veteran Appreciation letter that was created by Member Dickman. Lance will provide the official copy for the Board to sign at the July meeting.

G. NEW BUSINESS

None.

H. BOARD MEMBER'S DISCUSSION

Member Bostic shared information regarding the Veterans Committee whose mission is to assist transitioning Veterans that are entrepreneurs, starting a business, or looking for a job. Member Bostic welcomes any Sunrise Veterans that are seeking business assistance.

Sean informed the Board members that the next Board meeting will most likely take place at the new City Hall. Sean also provided an update on Veterans Park. New specifications for the park were completed and sent to a new contractor. The City is hoping to award the new contractor at the July 11th Commission meeting.

I. NEXT BOARD MEETING: THURSDAY, JULY 20TH, 2023

Location: City Commission Chamber (**Old City Hall**)
Address: 10770 West Oakland Park Boulevard

J. ADJOURNMENT AT 6:55 P.M.

Member Bostic made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Member Kenton seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned by Vice-Chair Leibowitz.

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.