

SUMMARY MINUTES

Veterans Advisory Board Meeting November 16, 2023 – 5:30 P.M. City Hall – Everglades Room

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
Stanley Bostic – **Absent Excused**
Mark Shultz
Kenton Isackson
Robert Latimer
Stanley Leibowitz
Eshia McLymont – **Absent Excused**
Norman Rothfeld
Lance Dickman
Loretta Young

Emilie Smith – Deputy City Manager
Stephanie Joseph – Administrative Assistant I
James Heaton - United Way's Mission United

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

D. OPEN PUBLIC DISCUSSION

E. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 19, 2023 MINUTES

Vice-Chair Leibowitz asked for a motion to approve the October 19, 2023 minutes, a motion was made by Member Latimer and was seconded by Member Dickman, and the Board approved unanimously.

F. OLD BUSINESS

a. United Way's Mission United - James Heaton

Mr. Heaton introduced himself to the Board. Mr. Heaton is the Senior Director of the United Way of Broward County Mission United.

Mission United is a critical resource of United Way of Broward County. United Way has been in Broward for almost 85 years and Mission United has been in Broward for officially 10 years.

Mission United focuses on 6 pillars of resources for Veterans such as employment, education, health, housing, legal services, and financial stability. These resources are done through in-house initiatives and community engagement.

In 2016, United Way Worldwide picked up Mission United for national expansion. Currently, Mission United is in 27 United Ways across the county.

For 10 years now, Mission United has been operating a federal grant through the Department of Veterans Affairs called Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF). This grant is to provide assistance for Veterans who are at immediate risk of homelessness or are already homeless. This grant allows Mission United to provide shelter for Veterans someday.

Supportive Services for Veteran Families can also assist Veterans through the Shallow Subsidy program. Under the Shallow Subsidy service, SSVF grantees provide rental assistance payments to landlords on behalf of the Veteran household. For SSVF's Shallow Subsidy service, the maximum amount of rental subsidy that can be provided on behalf of the Veteran household is up to 50% of rent on a unit that is deemed rent reasonable.

The Veterans Resource Center was created one year ago for Veterans to connect with different resources at one location. Veterans can meet with the Veterans Affairs (VA), Veterans Service Officers, career counselors, and employment specialists. The Veterans Resource Center is open on Mondays and Thursdays.

One of Mission United's goals is to expand out into the community further West to accommodate more Veterans that live further West. Mission United is currently looking for a space to house the program and hopefully launch in 2024.

Mr. Heaton explained that the services that Mission United provides that are funded by the VA, come with a lot of restrictions when using the funding for the programs.

Mission United created a new position (Community Engagement Manager) and currently looking for someone to be a direct liaison between municipalities and Governmental entities.

Mr. Heaton explained that Mission United has a physical outreach team that goes out into the community to find homeless Veterans. Mission United also uses a system called HMIS to locate Veterans who get booked into homeless shelters.

Member Isackson asked if Mission United would partner with the Tunnel to Towers Foundation. Mr. Heaton explained that Mission United has worked in conjunction with Tunnel to Towers in the past.

G. NEW BUSINESS

H. BOARD MEMBER'S DISCUSSION

The Board shared their experience at the Veterans Day Ceremony and explained that the event went very well.

Member Isackson suggested sending a thank-you letter on behalf of the Board to the traffic unit that assisted with the Veterans Day Ceremony. Member Isackson will send a draft letter to Emilie and provide it at the next Board meeting.

I. NEXT BOARD MEETING: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2023

Location: Everglades Meeting Room (**City Hall**)
Address: 10770 West Oakland Park Boulevard

J. ADJOURNMENT AT 6:28 P.M.

Member Leibowitz made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Member Shultz seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.

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.