

SUMMARY MINUTES

**Veterans Advisory Board Meeting
March 21, 2024 – 5:30 P.M.
City Hall – Osprey Conference Room**

A. CALL TO ORDER BY: Thaddeus Hamilton, Chair, at 5:33 P.M.

B. ROLL CALL

Thaddeus Hamilton,
Brenda Covin Senior
Stanley Bostic
Kenton Isackson
Robert Latimer
Eshia McLymont
Norman Rothfeld – **Arrived at 5:40 pm**
Lance Dickman
Loretta Young - **Absent Excused**
Bruno Condron
Justin Wells – **Arrived at 6:27 pm**

Emilie Smith – Deputy City Manager
Reilly Bridgers – City Manager Intern
Officer David Forteza

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

D. OPEN PUBLIC DISCUSSION

E. APPROVAL OF February 15, 2024 MINUTES

Chair Hamilton asked for a motion to approve the February 15, 2024 minutes, a motion was made by Member Isackson and was seconded by Member Dickman, and the Board approved unanimously.

F. OLD BUSINESS

a. Veterans Resource Guide Update

Chair Hamilton briefly explained the Resource Guide for the new Board members. Chair Hamilton asked for each member to review the resource guide and provide updates that are needed. The Board will revisit the Veterans Resource Guide at

the next meeting for review.

G. NEW BUSINESS

a. Board Responsibilities Review

The Board reviewed the duties and responsibilities of the Veteran's Advisory Board. The Board also discussed attending other City Advisory Board meetings to actively be a Liaison on behalf of the Veterans Advisory Board.

Member Dickman asked Emilie if more than one member can be a Liaison to the same board. Emilie explained that more than one member cannot be a liaison to the same board because that may result in a Sunshine Law violation.

b. 2024 Project Brainstorming Discussion

Member Dickman suggested having more Veteran t-shirts printed to sell and donate proceeds to Veterans in need. Emilie explained that the shirts Board members received are designed to be distributed at the Veterans Park grand opening event. During the Veterans Park grand opening, the Board will have a booth to distribute the t-shirts to residents. Emilie explained that the city would not sell the t-shirts because it would be a challenge for accurate citywide accounting.

Member Isackson asked if the City can create a financial support program to assist Veterans with purchasing a home in Sunrise. Emilie explained that many of the programs the City runs, such as the First-time Home Buyers, or Home Repair Program, come from Federal grant funding. Those allocations come with restrictions on how the funds are used. If the city wanted to create a program with the absence of federal restrictions it would need to come from City tax dollars, which can lead to current resident tax dollars going towards non-residents. Member Isackson suggested inviting Representative Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick to a meeting to discuss the topic. Emilie explained that the Board will need to come up with detailed items to present to Representative Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick.

Member Bostic explained that there are state programs to assist with housing. The Board suggested adding Veteran home buying and housing resources to their webpage and resource guide.

Member Rothfeld discussed the new state law HB 1365 that prohibits homeless individuals from sleeping in public places. Member Rothfeld explained that the vast

amount of money spent currently on programs to address Veteran homelessness has not solved the problem. Board Member Isackson brought up concerns that the money could be used for purposes other than what it was intended for. The Board decided to explore Member Rothfeld's idea and look into it further while evaluating program options.

Member Rothfeld asked Officer Forteza what the police's view on homelessness in the city is. Officer Forteza explained that police officers share resources available to the homeless.

Member McLymont suggested that the Board explore programs to help homeless Veterans and work hard as individuals to serve the community. Volunteering, donating, and personally sharing resources are a few things Board members can do to help the community.

H. BOARD MEMBER'S DISCUSSION

Member Dickman told the board about the Community Resource Fair in April and the American Legion Law Enforcement, Paramedic, and Firefighter of the Year Awards. Member Dickman also shared information about a free patriotic concert on May 19th in Tamarac.

I. NEXT BOARD MEETING: THURSDAY, April 18, 2024

J. ADJOURNMENT AT 6:51 P.M.

Member Isackson made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Member Condron 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.