

SUMMARY MINUTES

**Veterans Advisory Board Meeting
April 18, 2024 – 5:30 P.M.
City Hall – Everglades Room**

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

B. ROLL CALL

Thaddeus Hamilton,
Brenda Covin Senior
Stanley Bostic - **Absent Excused**
Kenton Isackson
Robert Latimer
Eshia McLymont – **Arrived at 5:37 pm**
Norman Rothfeld
Lance Dickman
Loretta Young
Bruno Condron
Justin Wells - **Absent Excused**

Emilie Smith – Deputy City Manager
Stephanie Joseph – Administrative Assistant I
Officer David Forteza

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

D. OPEN PUBLIC DISCUSSION

E. APPROVAL OF MARCH 21, 2024 MINUTES

Chair Hamilton asked for a motion to approve the March 21, 2024 minutes, a motion was made by Member Latimer and was seconded by Member Dickman, and the Board approved unanimously.

F. OLD BUSINESS

a. Veterans Resource Guide Update

Officer Forteza explained that the Police Department is reviewing and cross-referencing both resource guides.

Member Latimer reviewed pages 5 and 6 of the resource guide and explained that the Florida Veteran Foundation website and phone number are inactive.

Emilie suggested cross-referencing the homeless resource guide to see what information may relate and be useful to add to the Veterans Resource Guide.

b. 2024 Project Brainstorming Discussion

Chair Hamilton shared that many Veterans are joining different organizations to feel a sense of community. Chair Hamilton expressed the need to figure out ways to reach the Veterans early on.

Emilie explained that for years, the city advocated for state and federal funding for facilities, wellness activities, and resources for Veterans, but has yet to be successful. The City's state and federal Lobbyists assist with these requests by advocating on behalf of the city. The Board requested to invite Congresswoman Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick to discuss funding for Veterans.

G. NEW BUSINESS

a. City Advisory Board Liaison Information and Dates

Each Board member was invited to selected an advisory board to liaison throughout the year. Member Young asked if Board members are required to attend all meetings throughout the year. Emilie explained that Board members are not expected to attend every meeting but ideally 1 or 2 meetings yearly.

The goal is to connect with other boards and gain knowledge on what their actively working on and ways to incorporate sustainability with the Veterans Board. Emilie requested to be informed ahead of time if a Board member will be attending a meeting.

H. BOARD MEMBER'S DISCUSSION

Member McLymont asked if rent can be capped at a certain amount. Emilie explained that the State of Florida is not rent controlled; however proper notice for rent increases must be given.

I. NEXT BOARD MEETING: THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2024

J. ADJOURNMENT AT 6:34 P.M.

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