

SUMMARY MINUTES

**Veterans Advisory Board Meeting
September 19, 2024 – 5:30 P.M.
City Hall – Everglades Room**

A. CALL TO ORDER BY: Thaddeus Hamilton, Chair at 5:30 P.M.

B. ROLL CALL

Thaddeus Hamilton
Brenda Covin Senior
Kenton Isackson – **Absent Excused**
Robert Latimer
Eshia McLymont – **Arrived at 5:38pm**
Norman Rothfeld – **Absent Excused**
Lance Dickman
Loretta Young – **Absent Excused**
Bruno Condron
Justin Wells
Charmaine Rolle

Emilie Smith – Deputy City Manager
Juliana Castro – Administrative Officer II
Paige Stanish – Administrative Assistant I
Officer David Forteza
Marisa Bennett – Division Director – Special Events
and Cultural Affairs
Amanda Tomlinson – Division Director – Special and
Community Support Services

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

D. OPEN PUBLIC DISCUSSION

E. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 15, 2024 MINUTES

Chair Hamilton requested a motion to approve the August 15, 2024 minutes. The motion was made by Member Latimer and was seconded by Member Dickman, and the Board approved unanimously.

F. OLD BUSINESS

a. Veterans Park Grand Opening, Saturday, October 5, 2024 @9:00 am Marisa Bennett, Division Director – Special Events and Cultural Affairs

Emilie handed out promotional flyers to the board. She said that she will email the flyers as well in order for members to share the event details with others.

Marisa, the lead for the Grand Opening of Veterans Park, gave an overview of the event. The ribbon-cutting will be in front of the monument, and the ceremony will begin at 10am at the Remembrance Circle. Jill Hickey and one other singer will each perform a song. Marisa extended an invitation to Member Latimer to give a bagpipe performance, to which Member Latimer accepted. Chair Hamilton suggested that the board should write a recognition letter for Ms. Hickey and Member Latimer for their outstanding contributions.

Chair Hamilton will be speaking at the Grand Opening, and Piper High School will conduct the flag folding ceremony. State representatives, county commissioners, and two congresswomen were invited. Dan Daley's Legislative Aide and State Representative Robin Bartleman have both confirmed their attendance.

Chair Hamilton inquired about a monthly veterans meeting that the City will possibly begin. Emilie explained that it's on the City Commission agenda for Tuesday for possible approval, and she will report back to the Board on the final decision.

b. Veterans Park Brick Program, Approved by City Commission on 9/10

Emilie announced that the program was approved by the City Commission and will be promoted at the Grand Opening. She also brought in brick samples for the members to pass around. Memorial bricks will be available for purchase online starting October 5th and the prices are \$50 for a small brick and \$100 for a large.

c. Military Vehicles on Display

The military vehicles will be on display in the main parking lot at Veterans Park during the ceremony. Officer Forteza requested Marisa to send him the site plan.

d. Mission BBQ

Mission BBQ will be bringing their truck for display and grilling lunch for the event.

e. VAB Tent with Flyers & Forms for Brick Program

Marisa and Emilie both explained that there will be a tent with the Brick Program applications and sample bricks for guests to view.

f. Giveaways for Event

A commemorative coin and t-shirt will be handed out to the first 200 people to enter the park. The American Legion will have their own tent where they will promote their memberships and hand out American-style bandanas.

G. NEW BUSINESS

A. New Business

a. Veterans Day Event, Monday, November 11, 2024

i. Amanda Tomlinson, Division Director - Special and Community Support Services

Amanda explained that the event will be held in the Civic Center Theater, and breakfast will be provided. Chair Hamilton inquired about military vehicles being there. Amanda is going to request them, though they can be hard to schedule for a weekday. She is typically able to get Rolling Thunder for Veterans Day.

b. Harley Davidson Sponsorship/Krysten Soto

Harley Davidson confirmed their participation in the event and will be providing breakfast at the Harley Davidson dealership before the event at the City. The motorcycles will arrive at the event just before 10:00 am.

H. BOARD MEMBERS DISCUSSION

Member McLymont informed the group that next Tuesday, the 24th, there is a suicide prevention event held by Veteran Affairs (Miami VA). The Acting Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Integrated Veteran Care will be speaking.

Member Wells reported that the Fort Lauderdale Behavioral Health Center is opening up a unit for veterans' resources. He asked the Board if a representative can give a presentation at the next meeting. The Board approved unanimously.

I. NEXT BOARD MEETING: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2024

J. ADJOURNMENT AT 6:09 P.M.

Member Latimer made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Member Condron seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:09pm.

Transcribed by: Paige Stanish, Board Secretary/ *Paige Stanish*

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.