

Howard County Commission on Veterans and Military Families

Minutes

Thursday, 3 January 2019: 9830 Patuxent Woods Drive, Room 337

Columbia, Maryland 21046

ATTENDANCE: Robert Gillette, Bob Moore, Craig Porterfield, Janice Agazio, Jonathan K. Branch, Michael Blum, Greg Jolissaint, Bob Lowell, Howard T. Mooney, Lisa Terry GUESTS: , Bob Pelletier Ed Hall (American Legion Post 156) John Way, Chris Yates, Tom Glenn, Bob Berlett, Chris Baughman, Nathan Jones, Cecily Christian, Staci Harrison, Cheryl Mattis, Bob Chew, Ronna Corman-Chew, Yale Stenzler, Idil Mullett (MCRC), Barb Soscia (MCRC)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Howard. A presentation was made regarding and explaining the Mediation and Conflict Resolution Center, Inc (MCRC) by Idil Mullett and Barb Socia.

Lisa introduced Cheryl Mattis (Deputy Director of the Department of Community Resources and Services), and John Way (The V.A. Way, an organization with the mission of mental health first aid).

The minutes from the December 2018 meeting and social were reviewed and approved. Greg motioned to approve, Janice seconded. Howard reminded the commission of upcoming meeting dates: February 7, March 7, and April 8. The April 8 meeting will be our Annual Veterans Resource Fair.

Craig updated the commission regarding the tutorial program for Veterans Small Business Certification. Stated that we do not have a list of veteran owned businesses in Howard County.

Lisa updated the commission regarding the Veterans Resource Fair at Howard Community College on 8 April 2019.

Mike Blum was recognized as the veteran/ commission representative on the Board at Lincoln Technical Institute.

Howard reminded the commission that we have two vacancies to be filled. Requirements for a person to join the commission requires a letter and a resume submitted to Lisa. Howard stated that he would like to fill the positions by March.

There was no update regarding the Veterans Court Initiative.

Ed updated the commission regarding the Joint Military Council of Howard County. Reported that a veteran family received a new washer and dryer through the JMC.

A flag retirement ceremony will be held at the VFW in Ellicott City on January 19. Ed stated that the waste management guys are going to reinforce the flag retirement program. Well over 3000 flags have been retired since the program started.

Bob Gillette updated the commission regarding the Veterans Monument Foundation. Briefed the commission about the capital campaign and blue-collar campaign to raise money for the monument. Targeting Spring 2019 for ground breaking and completion of the monument by Veterans Day 2019.

Bob C. and Ronna updated the commission regarding the Veterans /Military Friendly Business designation program. Ed also stated that there is a scheduled briefing about the program for anyone with questions or concerns.

Howard complimented everyone who contributed to the annual commission report. Also, Howard stated that we should invite the new county executive as well as the new county council to address the commission.

Lisa reviewed Senate Bill 344. Currently any veteran who is not a U.S. citizen cannot join the police force. The Montgomery County Veterans Commission supports the bill. Greg made a motion to endorse the bill. Mike seconded. The motion passed.

Lisa led a discussion about shuttle transportation for veterans to medical appointments. It has been brought up at County Executive Ball's current listening sessions. Chris and Greg mentioned how other areas handled shuttles for their veterans, based primarily on need. Bob G. also shared the view from the transition committee. Lisa said the need for Howard County would be examined.

Lisa stated that she is looking for military students for a the Library system magazine photo shoot. Also mentioned a work day for Dream Builders on 5 January.

Lisa stated that we helped a WWII veteran to retrieve a replacement medal that he thought he deserved. The medal was retrieved, and a presentation is being planned.

Nathan briefed the commission on new requirements recently issued by the VA regarding pensions. Also, Bob M. mentioned the need for a speaker for a program at Mount Hebron School.

Howard stated that if members will not be at a meeting to please let him or Lisa know via email. Lisa also asked for volunteers for the Veterans Fair.

Howard adjourned the meeting at 8:30pm

Submitted by Jonathan K. Branch