



Virtual (WebEx) Commission Meeting

Meeting Agenda Thursday, April, 2021

1. Attendees

- a. Roll Call to Establish Quorum.:
- b. Acknowledgement of Howard County Government Officials in Attendance:
- c. Special Guest(s): Alexis Johnson, VA HCHV Outreach Social Worker; Mary-Lena Kikta, United Through Reading Program Coordinator
- d. Others in Attendance:

2. Meeting Opened by Meeting Chair/Pledge of Allegiance

3. Reminders of Virtual Meeting Etiquette

- Attendees are reminded to please stay muted; to utilize the WebEx Chat box to notify the chair if anyone had a comment or question; and to not place the call on “hold” if calling in by phone.

4. Consideration of March 2021 Meeting Minutes

5. Presentation by Invited Guests:

- Chair will ask Alexis Johnson and Mary-Lena Kikta to introduce themselves and their roles

6. Old Business:

- a. Update on Survey Proposed by the Commission’s Subcommittee on Equity and Racial Justice (Jonathan Branch and Lisa Terry):
 - County officials are reviewing the survey for final approval
 - Recommendation for new question to be added to the survey: ***“In what existing systems, structures and processes in Howard County did you feel most welcomed and seen?” Then list education, employment, housing, government programs, health, etc. for the survey respondent to choose from.***
 - Reasoning for recommended addition: in surveys about equity and inclusion, it is beneficial to pose positive areas of engagement as well.
- b. Update on the Veterans Support Group (Paul Rivers):
 - 2nd monthly group requirement?



- c. Feedback on March VAMHCS Meeting (Steve Bolen):
- d. Update on Veterans Day Presentations in HoCo Schools; Simulated Congressional Hearings Program Volunteer Judges on May 21 or May 26 (Reg Avery):
- e. Update on MHFA Proposal to the FMA Foundation Board (John Way):
- f. Update on Regional Veteran Symposium in Lieu of Annual Veteran Resource Fair (Lisa Terry):
 - Date
 - Sponsor(s)
 - Planned participants
 - Planned activities
- g. Update on Howard County Web-Based Veterans Tribute Premiering Memorial Day 2021 (similar to Montgomery County) (Lisa Terry):
- h. Update on 2 Commissioner Nominations (Lisa Terry):
 - Dr. Cherron Blakely's approval status?
 - Application(s) to fill the last remaining commissioner vacancy
- i. Veterans Home Exploratory Committee to Investigate the Feasibility of Building a Veterans Home in Howard County (Mike Blum)
- j. Potential Collaboration with Rotary Club (Lisa Terry):
- k. Update on Veteran-related Legislation (Steve Bolen)
- l. Commission Letter of Appreciation and Thanks for Milton Matthews, Columbia Association President. Departing his CA role in April 2021 (Lisa and Greg)

7. Business "On Hold"

- a. Columbia Lake Monument completion; fundraising for the monument; dedication ceremony (*donations can still be made by mail*)
- b. Howard County Schools "Buddy Program" for incoming military family members (Lisa Terry)

8. New Business

- a. Update on 7th Annual Veterans Day Parade and Ceremony 2021 (John Spain):
 - Next quarterly meeting April 13 at 3pm (Virtual)



- b. Update on Memorial Day ceremonies at 4 Howard County sites (Ed Hall):
- c. Reminder of Flag Retirement April 17th (Ed Hall):
 - Flag etiquette class will begin at 0830; flag retirement ceremony will begin at 11am
- d. Howard County Joint Military Council (JMC) significant items (Ed Hall, John Spain):
 - No other updates
- e. New business from Commission Members (Greg will facilitate):
- f. Comments or requests for other meeting attendees (Greg will facilitate):

9. Other Announcements or dates of importance (All)

- Get you Flu Shots; get your COVID Vaccination; continue social distancing; wear your mask; wash or hand sanitize your darn hands

10. Next Commission Meeting Date(s)

- Thursday May 6, 2021; Thursday June 3, 2021