

Veterans Services – Commissioner Bi-Monthly Meeting

REGULAR MEETING OF February 12th, 2024- REDACTED

Commissioners		
John McAllister -	President	Present
Christine Santiago Foos –	Vice President	Present
Merlin Reimer -	Secretary	Present
Dave Hyatt -	Member	Present
Richard Ray -	Member	Present
Veteran Services		
Brian Galligher	Director	Present
Wm. Piwtorak	Social Services	Present
Speaking Guest(s)		
Tim Funk and Barb Lyon		Presented: Heroes Ball
Amber Hudson		Presented: Mash Pantry greenhouse project

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY President McAllister at 1730

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence

Reading and approval of minutes:

1732 hrs.

MOTION – 24-0212-01 to approve the minutes from the Jan 22th 2024 meeting with minor changes.

1st Hyatt

2nd Reimer

5-0 Vote

PASSED

Special Guest: Tim Funk and Barb Lyon – HEROES Ball

This event slated for April 27th from 5 to 8 pm and will be a formal event (similar to a Military Ball) to honor Military, Veterans, and First Responders who have gone above and beyond their expectations. This event will be supporting Stockhands but for the operational side of the organization and NOT for the capital campaign.

There will be a “Wall of Heroes” showcasing those that have been identified where they do exceptional work. Stockhands asked if Veterans Services would sponsor the wall at a cost of \$10,000.

The board discussed and agreed to table the decision until next meeting.

Special Guest: Amber Hudson – Mash Pantry

Arrived to discuss the greenhouse project. The first greenhouse that Veteran Services is working through purchasing is going to Stockhands. To date, the funds have not reached MASH pantry yet. The reason for this visit was to discuss the 2nd greenhouse where a discrepancy for the other half of the funding exists and a third greenhouse going to TRUE NORTH instead of Camp Lazarus.

MOTION -24-0212-02 to move into executive session 1835hrs.
1st Hyatt 2nd Santiago-Foos 5-0 Vote PASSED

Discussed 2 financial requests and financial activity report

MOTION- 24-0212-03 return to public session 1904 hrs.
1st McAllister 2nd Reimer 5-0 Vote PASSED

MOTION – 24-0212-04 to reimburse VFW Post 8736 for storage they helped with REDACTED eviction issue that occurred on 2-8-2024.

1st Hyatt 2nd Santiago - Foos 4-0 Vote 1 abstained PASSED

MOTION – 24-0212-05 to create a waiver allowing REDACTED to receive 3 months of car payments instead of the allowed 2 months.

1st Ray 2nd Hyatt 5-0 Vote PASSED

Motion – 24-0212-06 to pay up to 3 months of car payments and provide \$300.00 worth of Meijer Cards to Redacted. The car payments will NOT be paid unless proof of insurance is shown and the proper documentation from the bank is received.

1st Ray 2nd Santiago-Foos 5-0 Vote Passed

Motion – 24-0212-07 to pay for another greenhouse for Mash Pantry that will be installed at TRUE NORTH. The cost for this is 10,835.00.

1st Hyatt 2nd Reimer 5-0 Vote Passed

NEW BUSINESS:

An idea was brought forward after an interaction with someone who volunteers at Grady Hospital. Is there anything that could be done to help support the recovery of any identified veteran who is admitted into Grady Hospital? This person may come to a future meeting. However, the question is posed; can Veteran Services do something to support the admitted veterans at Grady hospital?

Director's Report

Transportation has grown exponentially. Several courses of action have been discussed at previous meetings to support the people that work under transportation to meet the growing needs. The director recommends that the position that Andrew Apostolic holds be changed to a manager position. The other recommendation is that all of the drivers that want, be changed to permanent part-time. Also, two part time positions are needed that will remain contingent.

Motion -24-0212-08 to approve the Transportation Manager Job description and place Andrew into this position now as a manager instead of hourly employee.

1st Ray 2nd Hyatt 5-0 Vote PASSED

Motion – 24-0212-09 to change Andrew's Transportation Manager Job description to reflect a range of pay from \$33 - \$45 dollars per hour. Andrew's new hourly rate will be \$33 per hour. This will be affective on the next payroll

1st Ray 2nd Santiago – Foos 5-0 Vote PASSED

Motion -24-0212-10 to approve the Part-Time Permanent Driver job description that now reflects driving in adverse weather conditions and offer the current drivers to change from contingent to permanent part time status

1st Ray 2nd Santiago – Foos 5-0 Vote PASSED

Motion – 24-0212-11 to approve the ability for the director to post and hire up to 2 additional contingent drivers for the transportation section

1st Ray 2nd Reimer 5-0 Vote PASSED

Other veterans services activities

There was the 7th graduation of veterans at Veterans Court on Feb 9th

Recreation unlimited – FC Veterans Services invited DC Veterans Services out to see their plans working with this group. Both Directors were able to catch up and discuss services.

Director Galligher has received orders and will be sent to England for 3 weeks military Duty. He will miss only 1 meeting. Also, he is changing commands and will now be assigned to Denver, Colorado. This will mean on drill weekends, he will need to leave early on those Fridays to catch a plane to Denver.

The Wall that Heals – the last meeting was located at Deer Haven Park. This allowed the committee to see first-hand where the wall will be located and all of the logistics that will be needed to be addressed at this site. More meetings will continue. Next one will be established

NEXT MEETING: February 26, 2024 is the next scheduled meeting - 1730 hrs. – At 91 N. Sandusky (Veterans Services)

Motion – 24-0212-12 Motion to adjourn the meeting 2037 hrs.

1st Ray 2nd Reimer 5-0 vote PASSED

Veterans Services – Commissioner Bi-Monthly Meeting

REGULAR MEETING OF February 26th, 2024

REDACTED

Commissioners		
John McAllister -	President	Present
Christine Santiago Foos –	Vice President	Present
Merlin Reimer -	Secretary	Present
Dave Hyatt -	Member	Present
Richard Ray -	Member	Present
Veteran Services		
Brian Galligher	Director	Military
Wm. Piwtorak	Social Services	Present
Scott Leonard	Deputy Director	Present
Speaking Guest(s)		

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: President McAllister at 1730.

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence

Reading and approval of minutes:

1732 hrs.

MOTION – 24-0226-01 to approve the minutes from the Feb 12th 2024 meeting with minor changes.

1st McAllister 2nd Ray 5-0 Vote PASSED

MOTION -24-0226-02 to move into executive session **1744hrs.**

1st Hyatt 2nd Santiago-Foos 5-0 Vote PASSED

Discussed 3 financial requests and updated the status of 2 previously awarded veterans

MOTION- 24-0226-03 return to public session 1821 hrs.

1st Reimer 2nd Ray 5-0 Vote PASSED

MOTION – 24-0226-04 to reimburse VFW Post 8736 for an emergency plumber to help with Veteran Redacted water outage / leak the repair cost was for \$927.30.

1st Ray 2nd Hyatt 4-0 Vote 1 abstained PASSED

MOTION – 24-0226-05 to provide \$400.00 of Meijer food cards to Veteran Redacted spouse.

1st Ray 2nd Santiago-Foos 5-0 Vote PASSED

Motion – 24-0226-06 to create a waiver so Veteran Redacted can receive greater than \$7,500.00 dollars in 1 year and receive more than 2 months' rent.

1st Hyatt 2nd Santiago-Foos 4-1 Vote PASSED

Motion – 24-0226-07 to pay for Veteran Redacted rent (2 months passed two, 1 month current) and late fees totaling \$4,674.00

1st Hyatt 2nd Reimer 4-1 Vote PASSED

OLD BUSINESS:

Heroes Ball – this discussion was tabled from last meeting. The board had time to think and discuss the request further. RECAP: The request was for Sponsoring the Heroes Wall at the ball for \$10,000.00. Once the discussion ended, the following motion was presented.

Motion-24-0226-08 to sponsor a table at the Heroes Ball for \$3,500.00 so that 8 veterans can attend the evening's event.

1st Santiago-Foos 2nd Hyatt 5-0 Vote PASSED

Grady hospital – Recognition of Veterans when admitted; Last month a suggestion was to see what and if a program can be developed to provide a packet of information with a personalized get well cards from Veteran Services. Contact has been attempted to Grady's volunteers with a wait on call back.

Update next meeting

NEW BUSINESS:

Mash Pantry is closing – Feb 29th is the last day it will be open. They are searching For a new location. Maybe, they will return to being mobile. They were mobile a Few years back. No definitive plan has been made public.

Reported on a case where a veteran has been in need for almost a year. Numerous Agencies including: Delaware Police, Salvation Army, Arbors of Delaware, local first Responders, Heavy Metal Towing, and the legal system have all participated Getting this veteran to where he is currently; A much better place than where he was originally found? Collaborative parties make a difference.

Director’s Report

Transportation has requested the drivers to decide if they want to convert to permanent part time or remain in a contingent position. All have accepted.

There are two open position’s posted for contingent part time driver’s

Two new vehicles are in que to be leased through the county and given to Veteran Services for use.

Vietnam traveling wall – no update. The committee has been split up into subcommittees and they are working within their areas of responsibilities. The entire committee will be coming to-gether mid-March and an update will be provided soon thereafter.

NEXT MEETING: March 11, 2024 is the next scheduled meeting – 1730 hrs. – At 91 N. Sandusky (Veterans Services)

Motion – 24-0226-09 Motion to adjourn the meeting

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1st Reimer 2nd Santiago-Foos

5-0 vote

PASSED