

Veterans Advisory Committee
Thursday, October 12th, 2017, 5:30 P.M.
City of Bonita Springs
9101 Bonita Beach Road, City Council Chambers
Bonita Springs, Florida 34135

MINUTES

- I. MEETING CALL TO ORDER
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. ROLL CALL

Present:

Paul Canning
Scott Cline
Kay Pirucki
Adam Prentki III
Bob Gillette

Absent:

Bobby Hunter
William Pace
Richard Price
Deborah Whiteley
Kathleen O'Hearn

Staff

Steven Slachta
Meg Weiss
Kendra Gilreath

Guest

Rick Steinmeyer
David Van Sleet

- IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Rick Steinmeyer introduced himself announcing that he is running for Councilman Slachta's chair, which will be vacant when his term ends. Mr. Steinmeyer asked for the Committee's support.

Mr. David Van Sleet stated he wanted to make sure they are all set for Saturday, November 11. The Louisville Sluggers Warriors are playing a combo team this year, half fire department and half Lee County Sheriff. They need the name of that team for the flyer. The field location and everything is okay. Mr. Van Sleet stated he needs the name of the other team for the flyer.

Mr. Gillette stated that after the softball game, they are breaking up and heading over to the premiere of Enlisted. If anyone needs more tickets or if anyone wants to come who is a veteran, we will get them their tickets.

- V. WOUNDED WARRIOR GAMES DISCUSSION AND PLANNING: BOB

Ms. Gilreath shared the press release for the Louisville Slugger Warrior's Softball Game. Ms. Gilreath asked the Committee to let her know of any changes she needs to make before sending it out. Ms. Gilreath needs the name of the second team and to change the time to 3 p.m.

Mr. Van Sleet stated he has I♥Radio covering it. They will be broadcasting the game live.

VI. VETERANS DAY PLANNING DISCUSSION (review program draft & update)

Ms. Gilreath went over the program for Veteran's Day

Welcome –	Bobby Hunter
Posting of the color –	Marine Corps Lee
Pledge of Allegiance –	Bobby Hunter
National Anthem –	Tropical Storm American Legion Post 303
Dove release	
Innvocation –	Russ Winn
Dedication of POW/MIA –	Jay Murphy Chaplain American Legion Post 303
Mayor's Address –	Peter Simmons
Drill presentation –	Junior ROTC – Palmetto Ridge High
Honoring our Armed Forces –	Alex Herron
Proclamation –	Steven Slachta
Presentation of the Blue and Gold Star –	Steven Slachta
Dedication of Aisle of Flags –	Kathi O'Hearn
Musical Tribute –	Alex Herron
Introduction of guest speaker –	Steven Slachta
Guest speaker –	Major Ivan Castro
Dedication of the wreath –	American Legion auxiliary unit 303, VFW auxiliary unit 4254, and the DAR Barefoot Beach chapter, Tropical Storm
3 Camps Drum Roll –	Former Councilman Richard Ferreira
21 Gun Salute –	Marine Corp Lee ET Brisson Chapter
Taps –	Marine Corp Lee
Closing prayer –	Jay Murphy Chaplain – American Legion Post 303
Concluding Remarks –	Bobby Hunter
Closing Song –	Alex Herron

Mr. Gillette stated that Major Castro is very connected to three members of the Louisville Sluggers Warriors. Major Castro cannot see, Mr. Gillette is asking that we allow those veterans to bring him up on stage and be seated on stage so that Major Castro is comfortable. Please have a place on the stage for them.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF August 10th, 2017.

Mr. Scott Cline made a motion to accept the minutes; Mr. Paul Canning seconded; motion passed unanimously.

VIII. UPDATE ON BRICK SALES

No update on brick sales.

Ms. Meg Weiss reported that she has met at the monument with the producer of the monument, a structural engineer, and the company the City will be using to remove the top part of the monument in order to access the damage. There is one scratch straight across the back of the monument, it does not look like the fence scratched it anymore. They are going to cut the rebar and brace the monument so it does not get any more damage. Right now the structural engineer, the producer of the monument and our insurance company cannot do anything to access the damage and see if there is any additional damage until the monument is out of the ground. If there is no additional damage, the City is going to remove the monument in pieces, it will be secured and wrapped for storage until they can get recommendations from the engineer on how to replace the base. Initially there were some concerns on how the monument was installed, but the engineer has reviewed the plans of what was put in, and feels the monument was well installed. What they didn't see is that the rebar does go all the way into the ground, but when the monument flipped, the rebar pulled up and stretched, where it should have it snapped and broke. The engineer is going to come up with some recommendations for the base to insure it does not happen again in the future. Ms. Weiss stated they should know the cost of removing the top piece in the next 48 hours, so they can get an approval to move forward.

Mr. Cline asked if they talked about a larger base. Ms. Weiss responded they did, but after discussion with the structural engineer, it was determined it may not be necessary. The engineer will come back with some recommendations.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Gillette reported that we have two brigadier generals sharing the stage at the premiere of the "***Enlisted***" documentary. General John Kahave is an army veteran of the Vietnam war who was medevac helicopter pilot. General Kahave rescued so many people. He is a wonderful human being, has had a distinguished career and has done so much for our country. Also attending is General Jack Hammond, his claim to fame is that he is in charge of Home Base, for veterans of post traumatic brain syndrome. Mr. Gillette suggested he might be someone the Committee would want to consider as a guest speaker for the next event. The time to invite him would be while he's visiting at this event.

Mr. Cline made a motion to invite General Jack Hammond for next year's event, Mr. Canning seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Gilreath we received an application for the Committee from Larry Ellis. He is a purple heart recipient. It should be on the city Council agenda in November. The committee said other people have put applications in also. Mr. Canning asked if the Committee looks at the applications before they go to council. Councilman Slachta said yes, it goes to the Committee and then before Council

X. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Gillette said American legion 303 did so much after the storm, serving hot dogs. Penske box truck came in on the 21st and deliver supplies to the community.

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE

Next meeting date confirmed for November 9, 2017.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Prentki made a motion to adjourn, Ms. Kay Pirucki seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Any person requiring special accommodations at any of the meetings because of a disability or physical impairment should contact Meg Weiss, Director of Administrative Services, at 239-949-6262.

If a person decides to appeal a decision made by the Council in any matter considered at this meeting/hearing, such person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, to include the testimony and evidence upon which such appeal is to be based.