

Veterans Advisory Committee
Thursday, September 12th, 2019, 5:30 P.M.
Council Chambers
City of Bonita Springs
9101 Bonita Beach Road, City Council Chambers
Bonita Springs, Florida 34135

MINUTES

I. MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Farrington led the Pledge of Allegiance

III. ROLL CALL

Present

Bobby Hunter
Paul Canning
Scott Cline
Jan Farrington
Adam A. Prentki III
Scot Grissom

Staff

Kendra Gilreath

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Representatives, Laura and Alexa, from SALT, Serving and Loving Together, attended explaining that their organization runs an outreach program assisting families in need. They were attending the meeting to speak about a veteran couple with multiple needs.

The couple lives in Imperial Harbor in Bonita Springs and the house is in disrepair. They have received some assistance from Home Depot with the outside, planting flowers. Inside the home, the sink does not work the roof leaks, the shower does not work and the toilets do not work. Only two burners on the stove work. There is mold inside the house. They explained that it would cost \$500 to get the mold assessed. Ms. Laura and Ms. Alexa are coming to the Committee for help for this couple. Ms. Laura explained that SALT is not an official nonprofit yet, so she cannot apply for grants or funding, so they are hitting the streets. The couple has suffered frequent falls and take multiple medications. They would like to have a portable ramp installed on the side of the house where the laundry shed is located.

The Committee explained that they do not have funding to be able to assist, but they can reach out to other organizations that may be able to help. Mr. Hunter suggested

calling The Bonita Springs Assistance Office. Committee members will also reach out to different organizations that may be able to assist, as an example Bonita Bay has a Veterans Council and they do a lot of charitable work. Mr. Hunter could reach out the Fire Department or Sheriff's office if they need help with moving anything. Ms. Laura and Ms. Alexa stated that the couple does not have all the Veterans benefits in which they are entitled. Ms. Farrington stated it sounds like they need an advocate and the Committee made some suggestions of organizations that may be able to help. The Committee thanked Laura and Alexa for coming in.

Patriot's Day Ceremony

Mr. Hunter thanked the Committee for the great job they did at the Patriot's Day Ceremony. Ms. Farrington stated she took photos and heard several positive comments from people. Mr. Hunter read several positive comments he had received. Ms. Farrington thanked Ms. Gilreath for organizing the essay contest.

V. VETERANS DAY CEREMONY PLANNING

The Sub-Committee discussed the program.

Mr. Hunter will reach out to the Boy Scouts.

Ms. Gilreath will reach out to Shelby to see if she can sing the National Anthem.

Mr. Hunter will find out the song for the dance program and will get it to Ms. Gilreath.

Mr. Prentki asked Ms. Gilreath to reach out to Richard regarding the three camp drum roll.

Ms. Gilreath noted that the Committee voted on Mathew Kinsey as one of the guest speakers. She does not have the name of the second speaker, but will go through her emails and let the Committee know.

Mr. Prentki does not have confirmation from the Marine Corps League yet, but they know. Mr. Prentki is waiting to hear from their commander.

Ms. Farrington stated if Kathy cannot do the Presentation of the Wreaths, she would do it.

VI. WOUNDED WARRIOR GAME DAY PLANNING

Ms. Gilreath reported that the planning is going well. Ms. Gilreath stated the only thing she has to do is reach out to Shelby regarding the National Anthem and find out about bleachers. The Committee recommended encouraging participants to bring chairs instead of bleachers.

Ms. Farrington stated she would put the flyer on the Auxiliary page and the American Legion page.

Mr. Prentki asked if they wanted the American Legion to do a 50/50 with proceeds going back to the wounded warriors. The Committee agreed that would be a good idea.

Mr. Hunter asked if anyone knew of a Purple Heart recipient to throw out the first pitch, or someone they could bring out to honor. Mr. Hunter stated it does not have to be a Purple Heart. The Committee will think about it.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF August 15th, 2019.

Mr. Prentki made a motion to approve the August 15, 2019, minutes, Ms. Farrington seconded; motion passed unanimously.

VIII. UPDATE ON BRICK SALES

Mr. Hunter asked if the Committee wanted to have a brick made for the guest speakers. The Committee agreed this was a good idea. Mr. Hunter asked if they want to start putting the guest speaker bricks together in the same area. After discussion, the Committee decided to keep the bricks as they are.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Hunter introduced new member, Scott Grissom. Mr. Grissom is an Army veteran and has been a member of the local American Legion for seven years. Mr. Grissom has a couple of great kids. His daughter is a Marine stationed in California and is married to a Marine.

X. OLD BUSINESS

No old business to discuss.

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE

Next meeting confirmed for October 10, 2019.

Mr. Grissom made a motion to accept October 10, 2019 as the next meeting date, Ms. Farrington confirmed. Next meeting confirmed for October 10, 2019.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nadine Chiaramonte

Nadine Chiaramonte, Office Assistant

APPROVED VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

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Bobby Hunter, Chairman

DATE: 11-14-11

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Two or more members of the Bonita Springs City Council may be present and may participate at the meeting. The subject matter of this meeting may be an item for discussion and action at a future Bonita Springs City Council meeting.