



SOUTHFIELD VETERANS' COMMISSION MINUTES – March 11, 2019

The meeting of the Southfield Veterans' Commission was called to order by Chair Pulliam with presentation of colors, prayer and pledge of allegiance.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

G. Pulliam, G. Houston, D. Craig, B. Seldon, R. Caruthers, B. Clarke
Member Excused: C. Miller,

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT:

Gregory Pulliam
No Report

INTERIM SECRETARY REPORT:

Barbara Seldon

There were no written minutes, verbal minutes were spoken. February minutes will be sent to Vice-chair Houston and he will send out to the membership and place on website.

TREASURER REPORT:

Rodney Caruthers

No report: financial accounting is coordinated with the City of Southfield. There will be changes to account for spending for the Veterans Day event. A written treasurer's report will be available at the next meeting.

CITY LIAISON REPORT:

Police Lt. Christine Miller

No report – She submitted the treasurer's report to Rodney Caruthers. There is a shortage of police officers, but is still with us.

VICE CHAIR REPORT:

Gerald Houston

Gerald Houston attended the Tri-county veterans Networking Meeting at the John Dingell VA Center. The meeting was sponsored by Veteran's Transition Services of America and Michigan Veterans Center Organization. There were presentations, networking among attendees and a tour.

The networking contacts were Monica Munir, Mark Meadows, Tara Consolino, Chris Brown, and Joseph Zane. There were about 40 vendors and about 20 members in attendance.

Gerald Houston stated that no veteran history interviews were accomplished and none scheduled. We are at a standstill until we get the program process from Tim Wirkus. Gregory Pulliam has volunteered to help Gerald Houston. Also, Daniel Brightwell will be contacted in case he has some ideas on the process since he has done this in the past. Ben Clarke needs to be interviewed. We may use, for interviewing, the police departments room or Brenda Lawrence office.

Jerald Houston, Rodney Caruthers and Gregory Pulliam met with Michael Manion of Southfield Community relations and Mayor Kenson Siver. Plans were discussed about the Memorial Day Ceremony. Plans are now in place. Michael Manion will be handling this.

The Veterans Day program was reviewed. The program discussion included program flow, Tim Wirkus Posthumous award, and a Veteran's Excellence award for Rudy Wade, potential speaker, and flag presentation, taps, military songs.

There was further discussion about the number of members on the SVC be increased to 11. Gregory Pulliam, and Gerald Houston will meet with Michael Manion and bring information back about this possibility at the next meeting.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Danny Craig

Danny Craig announced another veteran's forum. It is scheduled for Monday June 3, 2019 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The 14th District democrat's veterans committee is the sponsor. They will provide employment opportunities, Housing, VA Benefits, and much more. It will be held at the Southfield Pavilion 26000 Evergreen Rd. Southfield, MI 48076.

Danny Craig announced that in cooperation with AARP, the Hannan Center will be hosting a new support group for veterans. It is scheduled for March 20th from 6PM - 8PM. The guests are Albert Hughes DAV Officer, Robert Middleton Commander Montfort Point Marines, and Ron Washington VA Legal Administration Specialist. It will be held at the Hannan Center rd floor conference room 4750 Woodward Avenue Detroit, MI 48201.

Danny Craig shared information about a "Lunch or Vets" by Oak Street Health. It is scheduled for March 20, 2019 from 12PM -2PM.

Danny Craig presented information about DAV Information and Claims Demonstrations for Vets" on March 23rd on Puritan, Refreshments served.

Danny Craig brought information about House Bill 4110 which states:

FOR THE 2019 TAX YEAR AND EACH TAX YEAR AFTER 2019, A CLAIMANT WHO IS AN ELIGIBLE SERVICEPERSON, ELIGIBLE VETERAN, OR ELIGIBLE WIDOW OR WIDOWER WHO LEASES OR RENTS A HOMESTEAD AND WHO RECEIVES COMPENSATION PAID BY THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION OR THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES AT THE 100% DISABILITY RATE FOR

SERVICE-INCURRED DISABILITIES IS ENTITLED TO A CREDIT AGAINST THE STATE INCOME TAX LIABILITY UNDER THIS PART EQUAL TO 20% OF THE TOTAL ANNUAL RENT PAID, NOT TO EXCEED 100% OF THE PROPERTY TAXES ON THAT HOMESTEAD FOR THE TAX YEAR, REGARDLESS OF THE TYPE OF HOMESTEAD THAT IS BEING LEASED OR RENTED.

It was moved and seconded that SVC support House Bill 4110 (carried)

OLD BUSINESS:

Gerald Houston reminded the commission of the Women's Veterans Empowerment project "Money Smart" scheduled for March 30th at P and R in room 115.

Chair Pulliam met the Bugler Rudy Wade who indicated that his cancer has returned yet he is willing to work with our program. We should be prepared just in case he is unable to attend and participate.

MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM:

Mr. Pulliam and Mr. Houston met with Michael Manion and according to Mr. Houston, Mr. Manion is agreeable with whatever we want to do, and also in retaining the program just like the last time when the Mayor planned it.

Mr. Danny Craig suggested that Mayor Siver be involved in the program.

The MLK souvenir booklet with the SVC ad was brought into the meeting and distributed to the donors by Barbara Seldon. Mr. Houston stated that Barbara's design was tasteful and the ad was well put together. Barbara Seldon thanked everyone for their personal patron donation to the MLK Program.

IDEAS FOR MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM:

The program needs to be planned, letters written, participants contacted, and a flier designed. Duties will be assigned. It was suggested that Mr. Houston write the letters.

Barbara Seldon suggests considering a candlelight ceremony or a floral tribute. Some one from each of the wars could be there to represent and make a floral tribute.

NEW BUSINESS:

Last meeting Commissioner Caruthers recommended that we invite Mr. Douglas Marble to a meeting. He is with Forgotten Heroes. All agreed.

Commissioner Caruthers will contact him.

Hearing no further business the meeting adjourned.

Barbara Seldon
Interim Secretary.