

## Frederick County Veterans Advisory Council Minutes

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

### Attendance

Voting Members	Present	Absent	Excused
Daniel Campbell		X	X
Sharon Jacko		X	X
David Kaye	X		
Rachel Nachlas	X		
Fred Schumacher	X		
John Lynn Shanton		X	
Fred Wood	X		
Ex-Officio Members			
Dee Harrison	X		
Michelle Day	X		
Andrea Walker		X	X
Michael McLane	X		
County Councilman Steve McKay	X		
Delegate Carol Krimm		X	
Robin Summerfield		X	

Guests: Julianna Albowicz, Teresa Spruill, Doug Silvern, Tami Hardesty, Caitlin Ainge, Diana Modelski, Andy Modelski, Keith Midberry, Steve Bohnel (Frederick News Post)

Staff: Monica Bearden

### Welcome and Introductions

At 6:03 pm, Fred Schumacher opened the meeting by leading the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair's Comments: Fred Schumacher welcomed members and guests. He thanked the members for the tremendous response to a request for data, which was expressed at last month's meeting. He thanked County staff for support and for arranging the rescheduling of this meeting due to inclement weather on the originally scheduled date.

Establishment of a quorum: After review of attendance, Fred Schumacher stated that a quorum was established.

Approval of Meeting Agenda: The agenda was approved by consensus.

## Old Business

Approval of January 2019 meeting minutes: David Kaye motioned to approve the minutes from the meeting on January 23, 2019. Dee Harrison seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Review of Data Presented: Fred Schumacher noted the volume of data provided to the VAC following last month's meeting. He indicated that data will be provided at the next meeting in the form of a PowerPoint.

## Presentation

*Workforce Services for Veterans: An Overview of Employment and Training Programs:* Michelle Day provided an overview of Frederick County Workforce Services (WFS), its collaborative partner agencies, the general programs it provides and the veterans-specific services offered. WFS actively outreaches to businesses and to veterans to match businesses' needs and veterans' skills and interests. WFS also provides supportive services such as case management to address indirect employment needs such as transportation, mental health, child care, etc.

In response to questions, Michelle noted that WFS can translate a military job title into the sets of skills that may match civilian jobs. Healthcare, information technology, and trade skills are highly sought by local businesses. She also noted that the older veteran (over 55) is part of a population that needs additional support to obtain employment. She also noted that the percentage of veterans seeking employment assistance is lower than the percentage in the general population.

## Public Comment

Keith Midberry shared information about Thank You for Your Service, a 2015 documentary film that will be shown Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at SoldierFit gym, 8420 Gas House Pike, Suite Z, Frederick, MD 21701. A trailer for the film can be viewed at <http://www.thankyouforyourservicethefilm.com/>

David Kaye has reached out to local veterans groups to let them know about the VAC. He shared information about Heavy Metal Playground and a class called Introduction to Heavy Equipment, which is an opportunity for veterans to have exposure to using heavy equipment, perhaps as a choice to consider for future employment. He proposed challenged local veterans groups to sponsor veterans for a daylong event and that this would serve two purposes: 1) Provide opportunity for many veterans to experience heavy equipment operation, and 2) Raise visibility of the VAC as well as other local veterans groups. By consensus, this topic will be on the March agenda.

## New Business

Discussion of process for development of mission, vision statements, and strategic priorities:

The following points were discussed:

- “We need to be a one-stop shop for veterans’ resources” (David Kaye)
- “We need to bring people together” (Fred Schumacher)
- “We need to make recommendations to the County” (Michael McLane)
- “Regarding mission and priorities, these are okay but no vision statement” (David Kaye)
- Following discussion, the general consensus was that no consultant was needed by the VAC to facilitate development of a mission statement and strategic priorities. A vision statement is not desired. The preference is to look at what has already been developed by Carroll, Howard and Anne Arundel County veterans boards and build from there.

Staff will look for dates in the next 6-8 weeks that meet the following criteria:

- Wednesday between 6:30-8:30 pm
- Not an already scheduled VAC meeting date
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room is available

When these potential dates for a strategic planning session are identified, staff will send out a Doodle Poll to the VAC. The date will be selected based on the greatest number of attendees available. This meeting will be open to the public and will follow Open Meetings Act requirements.

Proposed staff support for Veterans Advisory Council: Monica Bearden reported that a request for permanent staff support for the VAC is in process.

Open Meetings Act Training: Monica Bearden and David Kaye have participated in Open Meetings Act training. However, should neither of them be able to attend a meeting, the VAC would be without a qualified individual. Monica strongly recommended that many or all VAC member consider taking the training. Monica will send out the link to the online training. Members are asked to let her know if they intend to take the training and to send their certificate of completion once they have done so. (Link to training is also provided here: [https://www.igsr.umd.edu/VLC/OMA/class\\_oma\\_title.php](https://www.igsr.umd.edu/VLC/OMA/class_oma_title.php) )

Discussion of subject and speaker for March meeting: Veteran healthcare was requested as a topic. Dee Harrison volunteered to provide a presentation at the March meeting. This will be on the March agenda.

Recognition of Guy Whidden on June 6, 2019, 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D Day: Fred Schumacher shared that this event is taking place at Fort Detrick. In addition, the Eisenhower Institute will host a one-day symposium to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Invasion of Normandy. <http://www.eisenhowerinstitute.org/news-events/calendar#/?i=1>

## **Announcements**

A number of announcements were made by members and guests:

- March 9, 2019, Third Annual Retro Party for Charity 7-11 Delaplaine Arts Center Benefits Building Veterans Brunswick
- March 12, 2019 VFW Post 3285 hosts Retiree muster at their location beginning at 5PM
- March 28, 2019, American Legion Post 11 hosts Vietnam Veterans Recognition Dinner  
March 28, 2019, Opioid Resource Event at Frederick Fairground
- March 29, 2019, "Thank You for your Service" Documentary Film will be shown at Soldier Fit 8420 Gas House Pike beginning at 6PM
- May 22, 2019, Memorial Day Recognition at Kline Hospice House 1 PM
- July 10, 2019, Veterans Recognition and Resource Day Frederick County Senior Citizen Center 9AM-2PM
  
- Steve McKay stated that he will meet with County Executive Gardner soon regarding budget priorities for FY20
- Request from guests for the VAC to the "30,000 foot view" of veterans organizations and to bring clout to the County to meet the needs of veterans
- Announcement by guest for the need of a large barn or storage facility for a fund raising event for Serving Together. David Kaye will follow up.
- Discussion raised by guests regarding setting up a Community Foundation Fund for veterans. Rachel Nachlas will reach out to Betsy Day, CEO of Community Foundation.

## **Adjournment**

David Kaye moved to adjourn. Rachel Nachlas seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm.

**Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting:** March 20, 2019 at 6:30 pm. Winchester Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room

Respectfully Submitted by Monica Bearden