

Frederick County Veterans Advisory Council Minutes

Wednesday, April 3, 2019

Attendance

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

Guests: Diana Modelski, Doug Silvern, Keith Midberry

Staff: Monica Bearden

Welcome and Introductions

At 6:35 pm, Fred Schumacher opened the meeting by leading the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair's Comments: Fred Schumacher reminded attendees that there will be no public comment during the meeting. He shared that the event featuring "Thank You for Your Service" was excellent and well attended. He also shared that Danny Farrar and Michael Meyer are proposing a 30,000 sq ft Veterans Resource Center.

Establishment of Quorum: With six voting members and three ex-officio members present a quorum was established.

Approval of meeting agenda: David Kaye motioned to approve the agenda. Daniel Campbell seconded. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Develop Mission Statement

Members reviewed the materials provided for the meeting. These included mission statements and priorities from Carroll, Howard, and Anne Arundel Veterans Boards, the bill that established this VAC, and the mission statements from Serving Together and the Community Veterans Engagement Board. Following discussion, Fred Schumacher proposed the following mission statement:

In twenty months, working with the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, the Veterans Advisory Council will enhance the services to the Frederick County Veteran by collaborating with the established military veteran service organizations, the Veterans Support Network and the Community Veterans Engagement Board increasing access opportunities for the Veteran, their families and dependents. Additionally, the Council will work with county commissions, boards and councils to develop and promote programs and services for Veterans and their families.

Fred also proposed the following motto:

Assisting Frederick County Veterans from discharge to final formation.

Priorities

Short term (Next 0-60 days)

- Develop a trifold document that describes the VAC and can be distributed in person and through social media/website.
 - This will be accomplished by a subcommittee that will propose content and format, as well as develop a distribution list.
 - Document needs to be in English and Spanish
- Connect with Fort Detrick leadership to make the VAC known
- The VAC Coordinator position, currently in recruitment, had 23 applicants with five being eligible for interviews. Timeline to hire continues to sometime in May.
 - VAC Coordinator would be available to meet with veterans groups, provide support to VAC meetings, assist the VAC in setting up an annual calendar.
 - The VAC and Coordinator will need to work together to budget the 20 hour/week schedule of the Coordinator.
- Fred Wood proposed that the VAC meet at locations other than Winchester Hall. He proposed American Legion, VFW or other locations familiar to veterans. Discussion followed regarding exploring possible locations for meetings. The quarterly televised

meetings will remain at Winchester Hall. The VAC Coordinator may assist in scheduling meeting locations proposed by members.

- Availability of phone-in service was discussed. Monica Bearden shared that there is no precedent for phone-in. However, another commission is also considering it. She will continue to explore options for this.

Mid Term goals (61-180 days)

- Add structure and framework to the VAC by developing bylaws.
 - This will be accomplished by a subcommittee that will draft bylaws following the County requirements for review and approval.
 - David Kaye has worked on the bylaws for the Human Relations Commission and will provide that as a model.
- Develop a speakers schedule for VAC meetings
 - Following discussion, the members determined that speakers are beneficial to the VAC in becoming more knowledgeable about resources, services, and opportunities.
 - A speaker schedule will be developed by a subcommittee.
- Define a one-stop-shop for veterans.
 - Sharon Jacko described a model used in several areas of the country. This model is a veteran-specific 2-1-1 with specially trained, veteran-oriented call takers and referral network. She is meeting with representatives of United Way of Frederick County and the Mental Health Association of Frederick County.
 - Members shared that other models for a one-stop-shop for veterans exist as well

Long Term Goals (181-360 days)

- Implementation of a one-stop-shop

Announcements

Fred Schumacher noted that the opioid resource event at the Frederick Fairgrounds on March 28th was very successful.

Adjournment

Sharon Jacko moved to adjourn the meeting. David Kaye seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm.

Submitted by Monica Bearden