



HARFORD COUNTY COMMISSION ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Meeting Minutes From August 5, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Robert Brown at 6:00PM via MS Teams.

Attending: Bob Brown, Lisa Brown, Art Kaff, Jennifer Button, Bill Montgomery, Pam Silcox, Deacon Vic Petrosino, Robert Appleby, and Dennis Miller.

Excused: Mike Ray, Denise Perry, Councilman Johnson, and Scott Kearby

Guests: Simon Ballard and Laverne Cash

Pledge of Allegiance given by Lisa Brown

Opening Prayer given by Deacon Vic Petrosino

Welcome & Opening Comments:

Chairman Brown – presented the HCCOVA Mission and Vision statements and welcomed members and guests.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from the May 6th meeting were approved. Pam Silcox made the motion to approve and Hayden Anthony second.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Laverne Cash, REBOOT Combat Recovery Program. This is a faith-based program that helps veterans and military work through trauma and moral injury. Ms. Cash gave the background, history, and details of the program. Combat Recovery is one of three National REBOOT programs, and the one program developed for military and veterans. This is a 3-month program where participants meet one day a week for 2-hours a session. Ms. Cash is looking for volunteers to lead the program as the previous leaders are no longer with the program. She mentioned that they were thinking about asking the Chaplain's Office at APG as a possible location and office to start a program. Laverne asked that Commission members reach out to local veterans' groups to see if any could help start or possibly assist with the program. Ms. Cash will help with training. Simon Ballard said he would reach out.

OLD BUSINESS:

- MOAA Community Project Update. Jennifer Button reported that the workgroup is working on a rubric and reviewing the guidelines and framework for the Essay and Poster contest. MOAA is working on the logistics, such as the website and sponsors. This will be a completely virtual

contest. Submissions will be accepted during October, and the winners announced during the November 13th Veterans Resource Fair.

- Jennifer Button gave an update on the Veterans Discount Book. Forty-five businesses provided input. Jenn is verifying the information now. The plan is that the County will publish the Resource Guide as they did last year. Cindy Mumby's office will be contacted for details.
- Dennis Miller reported that the several Veterans Commission members marched in the Bel Air Fourth of July parade. The Veterans Commission was joined by County Executive Glassman.

NEW BUSINESS

- Legislative Issues. None.
- Legal Issues. There was one request for assistance that Art Kaff took care of.
- Programs and Outreach
 - Information for the County Executive and/or County Council. None.
 - Assistance Requests.
 - Request received to publicize a Cyber Security Workforce Training for veterans.
 - A request to assist a homeless veteran in Aberdeen
 - Several requests for VA Health and claims
 - Request to donate furniture
 - A few of these requests were sent to Serving Together for assistance
 - Public Events and Recognition.
 - Pam Silcox reported on the November 13th Veterans Resource Fair planning. The next step is a meeting with Cindy Mumby's office to talk about marketing.
 - Wreaths Across America will have an education van at Harford Mall on November 10th. The Veterans Commission was invited to set up a table to publicize the Resource Fair.
 - Central Maryland Veterans Collaborative, Tuesday, August 10th, 1300-1430hrs. This is open to all veterans to call in and questions of a panel. Each quarter a different panel is available. In August the meeting will focus on veteran employment. In the future, Harford County will be sponsoring a Harford County Veterans Collaborative. The first meeting will be in October. Meetings will be the second Tuesday of every month that there isn't a Central Maryland Collaborative. Simon asked for names and addresses for invitees. Mental Health is the topic for the first session.

MEMBER UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Jenn shared that there is a Spirit of Thanks event October 5th from 430-7pm at Hopkins Farm Brewery sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Tickets are \$40.
- Art Kaff reported that 4th of July parade pictures and job announcements were posted on Facebook. VAMHCS will have a "Welcome Home" event on September 18th at 0900 on Zoom. Art will post this on Facebook.
- Bill Montgomery said he would help with a LinkedIn page to help get our message out. We will check to make sure we can do that.
- Janice Cassidy reported that the Harford Community College will open the week of August 15th.

- Deacon Vic said he is back to in-person visits at the hospital. Four seminarians will be starting their internship at Upper Chesapeake hospital beginning the 15th of September and seeing veterans
- Simon Ballard stated a member of Post 39 contact his office at Harford County Community Services asking to help veterans with monetary support and services. Simon will follow up. The Sheriff's department will have a Veterans Appreciation Day event on November 10th. Simon will forward the flyer. Simon completed the Serving Together training. Harford County Community Services volunteered to have Katie Kilby from Serving Together present during an upcoming County Meeting with the goal of these organizations registering as partners with Serving Together. Simon was approached by someone wanting to promote Rally Against Parkinson. The individual said he can come to a veterans group to explain his program. Contact Simon for more information. Community Services is doing staff Suicide Prevention training and is available to provide it for the Veterans Commission.

FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next meeting is scheduled for September 2, 2021. A decision will be forthcoming on whether it will be in-person or on Teams
- Meetings are scheduled for the first Thursday of the month unless otherwise announced.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:51pm.

Full link to Teams Meeting:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MWY2Y2VhY2QtMzFmNi00MmQ5LThhMjktMjQ2MWQ3OWVjY2Yx%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22756eb95a-68e1-4b7a-9607-685e1277368e%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22c088a1ce-0105-43a7-bfc1-824daeffaf53%22%7d