

ADVISORY BOARD ON VETERANS AFFAIRS MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 3, 2018

Suite 1114 441 4th Street NW, One Judiciary Square

Washington DC 20001

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Meeting Called to Order at 6:40 pm

Attendance: 13 voting members – Quorum present

Agenda was approved by voice vote

Minutes approved by voice vote

Special Guests:

1. Tony Wallis, Association of the United States Navy (AUSN) – Chapter Secretary for the DC chapter and member of the AUSN Board of Directors
 - Lots of veterans in a member of the organization
 - New initiatives – at the DC level
 - AUSN meetings are held at the Historical Caretakers House at Arlington National Cemetery
 - Organized as a 501 c19 – veteran lobbying organization
2. Bardia Bastin, Attorney for Veterans Advocacy Project, Legal Counsel for the Elderly, AARP
 - DC office is currently staffed with two attorneys
 - Looking for an additional veteran hiring
 - Seeking partnership opportunities with the Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs
3. Donald Brooks – Veteran and former Veterans Affairs board member, current member of the Homelessness Board
 - More appointees from other District agencies are needed on the Board
 - Metro access should be free for all veterans and wants the board to work on this
 - Interagency Council on Homelessness meeting is a good meeting for board members to attend

Director's Report:

Operations:

- Last month I updated you on the leadership situation at the Washington DC VA Medical Center regarding the appointment of the 4th Acting Interim Director. An announcement on the new director is imminent.
 - There have been some other issues and I am monitoring them closely.
- Closed out the fiscal year
- VetsRide is up and running in FY 19
 - Some programming tweaks:
 - Only one round trip per day
 - Over 270 veterans enrolled in the program
- We now have bi-monthly table hours at the VA medical center
- Exploring weekly hours at the CRRC
- Ward 6 fire – displaced some members of the veteran community. MOVA worked with veterans, DHS, Red Cross to coordinate and deliver replacement medications from the VA Medical Center. Support is on-going.
 - American Legion Post 8 on Capitol Hill held a fundraiser and has been connecting with those veterans to provide assistance
- Hosted the Mental Health Summit
- Hotel Association & Veteran Employment panel
- 2 Voc Rehab Clinics
- 3 Claims Clinics
- 7 VetsRide sign up events

Updates:

- Three veterans will be appointed by the Mayor to the board.
 - Carrie Mullins Ward 2
 - Dominic Ju Ward 4
 - Stephen Slaughter Ward 8
- New Veteran Service Officer has been identified
- For board members locked out of their DCBC account:
 - Call OCTO at 202-671-1566

Initiatives:

- Veteran Database acquisition is in-progress
- PTS Awareness Special with OCTFME
 - Reoccurring veteran programming

Old Business

Chairman and Vice Chair

- Board members need to attend community events
 - Thank you to those board members who attended events over the last month
- Veterans forum – still working on after action items
- Military.com DC veteran benefits update – needs to be done by end of October
- Working through resolutions for October and for the veterans agenda
- New agency designee recommendations from board members – due to the MOVA Director by December meeting
- Report to Mayor on veterans issues due in December
 - November draft delivery date
 - Looking for volunteers to draft the report

New Business:

- Selective Service Resolution introduced by Mr. Spangenberg
- Director Ross requests that any future resolutions be placed on the agenda prior to the meeting in which they will introduced.
- Resolution is passed by voice vote

Committee Reports:

- Economics committee – meeting next week to discussion priorities

Public Comment:

None.

Housekeeping Item:

- Chairman noted that November 6, 2018, is the next scheduled board meeting and that it conflicts with Election Day. Chairman recommended moving the meeting to Thursday, November 8, 2018, at 6:30 pm.
- November meeting date is moved to November 8, 2018, by unanimous voice vote.

Motion to adjourn – 7:37 pm