

Mayor's Advisory Board on Veterans Affairs
Flash Minutes
April 5, 2016

1. Meeting details:
 - a. Regular meeting, held in Old Council Chambers, 441 4th Street, NW.
 - b. Convened at 1835 hrs, adjourned at 2010 hrs.
 - c. No audio recording was made through the DC government system. Director, OVA, recorded the meeting on her phone and we will attempt to transfer it to the government site.
2. Board Members
 - a. Voting Members Present (16): Wingo (chair), Pridemore (vice), Dalzell (Secretary), Kamara, Lampkin, P. Brooks, D. Brooks, Dier, Khan, Mack, Moore, Patterson, Sydnor, White, Williams, Wynn
 - b. Voting Members Absent (5): Locks (Parliamentarian), McLendon, Perez, Postell, Scott,
 - c. Ex-officio members present: Treadwell
 - d. Ex-officio members absent: Boyd, Preston
3. Votes taken (outside of approval of agenda, adjournment, and other routine actions):
 - a. Amendment to resolution on DC Vets Hall of Fame
 - i. Mr. Khan reviewed feedback from mayor's team: They won't support forming a separate committee – our board is sufficient for this purpose.
 - ii. Mr. Khan introduced amended resolution making the board the nominating body for the board.
 - iii. Board unanimously approved resolution as amended by voice vote.
 - b. Review of committee work
 - i. Ms. Pridemore noted we formed committees in February, but have added new members to board. She reviewed the list of committees and the outreach team.
 - ii. As we have chairs for most committees, mostly needed volunteers to be members and/or serve as a co-chair.
 - iii. Each new member present volunteered for 1-2 committees.
 - c. Strategic Plan
 - i. Ms. Pridemore continued by reviewing the strategic plan, reminding members it “is a living document.”
 - ii. Before the May meeting, each committee should meet to review objectives in the strategic plan and decide if they should be adjusted at that time.
 1. The overall theme is expanding pathways to the middle class, and it would be good to follow this centering theme.
 2. Even better to come up with their own plan'
 - iii. Committees can have people on committee from outside the board (as long as they are DC residents). They can also bring in non-voting “consulting partners,” who are not required to be DC residents.
4. Received updates from MOVA Director
 - a. #Fightfor15 Raise the Minimum Wage Pledge
 - i. She asked members to ask friends and family to sign the petition, and show support for the mayor,

- b. She's part of Interagency Council on Homelessness: Looking for landlords who would like to participate in housing programs to end homelessness in DC. POC Adam Rocap at Miriam's Kitchen, adam@miriamskitchen.org
5. Other actions:
- a. Recognition of community members
 - b. Presentations by guests
 - i. Mr. Walker, Mayor's office of Talents Appointments
 - 1. New members Kamara and Sydnor were sworn in.
 - ii. Charles W. McCaffrey, MBA, Director, charles@cbponline.org, Veterans Business Outreach Center at Community Business Partnership of Springfield, <http://www.cbponline.org/>
 - 1. The CBP is a nonprofit, sponsored by GMU, and a partner with the Small Business Administration (SBA).
 - 2. The CBP helps veterans, including National Guard members and Reservists, to start businesses by providing training, access to capital, "business boot camp," tax training, one on one counseling by range of specialists, and other programs.
 - 3. They also offer microloans up to \$10,000.
 - 4. In response to member questions, he provided additional information:
 - a. They do outreach to veterans. They have a team of three people, who put together packets for veterans centers and for other SBA partners, and go anywhere veterans gather.
 - b. Programs are generally free to users, but there is a \$100 fee for the boot camp
 - c. The boot camp is usually held once per month. They could bring to other locations, could do free for DC event. It runs eight hours and has no minimum numbers. Because the curriculum is already set, there is no required lead time to prepare a session.
 - d. They also teach "boots to business" as part of TAP at Walter Reed.
 - e. They saw 4,000 veterans in 2015, held 250 training classes, and provided 2,000 hours of counseling. They supported around \$15 million in capital investment.
 - iii. Charles Eggleston & Anthony Cancelosi, National Capitol Region, Community Engagement Board, part of the VA
 - 1. Cancelosi, Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind, <http://www.clb.org/about-clb/anthony-cancelosi-bio/>
 - a. CLB serves vets with disabilities, primarily for employment but also for services.
 - b. CEB was created to serve the whole veteran who comes to the VA medical center to address their needs, and to partner the community with the VA.

2. Charles Eggleston, <http://www.vscoa.org/vscoa.org/charles-eggleston/>
 - a. As a service member, he was in Walter Reed for 3½ years/
 - b. As leader in the Military Order of the Purple Heart, he works with White House and Congress on legislation for veterans, and as a conduit between national and state/community levels.
 - c. He is asking the district to aid with suggestions on how to better treat vets coming into the catchment area of DC, Northern Virginia, and Prince George's and Montgomery counties.
3. In response to member questions, they provided additional information:
 - a. 17 people have been identified for board, but they are still setting up looking for what's missing.
 - b. They have a strategic planning meeting next week, and will meet every two months at the VA Medical Center.
 - c. Ms. Pridemore recommend having an education person on board.
- iv. Carl E. Brown Jr., Executive Director, DCSBDC Network, <https://www.dcsbdc.org/>, Carl.brown@howard.edu
 1. Was director of the small-business center at Howard University.
 2. The DCSBDC has been in existence since 1979, starting as a SBA model association. They do workshops on leader development, certification, produce financial statements, etc. They also have a strategic partnership with SCORE.
- v. Keith Streicher-Howard, DC Veterans Leadership Coalition, was scheduled but did not attend.
- vi. Shane Cook, communications director, The Code of Support Foundation, shane@codeofsupport.org
 1. Represented Kristina Kaufman, Executive Director
 - a. <http://www.codeofsupport.org/>
 - b. Also attending were Kelsey Wolfe Davis, kelsey@codeofsupport.org and Chelsea Hilton, chelsea@codeofsupport.org
 2. CSF is five years old, a non-profit, national organization. It works with veterans regardless of discharge status, providing one-on-one case service through a team of case workers. They seek a comprehensive approach that sets the veteran up for success 6-12 months later.
 3. Discussion with board members led to the following additional points:
 - a. Ms. Pridemore told of working with CSF to support student veterans.
 - b. CSF does not work with VSOs, just directly with vets
 - c. In general, they see fragmented services at all levels, and a lack coordination within the VA.

- d. One of their programs is Patriot link, which aggregates all services into a single database, searchable by service needed.
 - i. E.g. if one group does only housing, they can use it to find others who provide the complementary services.

6. Public comments

a. Eggleston

- i. The earlier discussion passed over the judicial side of the veterans, and he is calling for a veterans court. He urged the board to push the City Council and mayor's office to support a VC.
 - 1. He explained that this usually involves a system where the veteran can plead guilty, attend court sessions every 1-2 month, serve probation for a year, then have their record expunged.
 - 2. Ms. Pridemore said the board has already discussed this, and it's shared by government affairs and incarcerated veterans committees.

b. Wayne Stewart, wayne.stewart423@gmail.com

- i. Raised the issue of a lack of funds specifically to help a veteran get to interviews when job-seeking, or to defray the mandatory licenses for jobs like security guard.
- ii. The board discussed whether a subcommittee could address this with metro. Mr. Williams noted that the Department of Labor vets does have a program for funding to help throughout the process.

7. Due-outs from board members or committees:

- a. Committees should be meeting and coordinating with the chair and vice-chair for times to report back to the board on their plans and activities.

8. Upcoming meetings and events

- a. Other government hearings as described above
- b. Next monthly board meeting: 3 May, Old City Council Chambers, 1830 hrs. See <http://www.bega-dc.gov/board-commissions-meetings/mayors-advisory-board-veterans-affairs> for agenda.
- c. US Coast Guard is seeking volunteers to help clean up WWII cemeteries. Next event 16 April 2016, Woodlawn Cemetery, 4611 Benning Road SE, POC LT Alexander Austin at alexander.t.austin@uscg.mil

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen R. Dalzell
Secretary