Mayor’s Advisory Board on Veterans Affairs

Flash Minutes

2 February 2016

1. Meeting details:
	1. Regular meeting, moved from Suite 540 South to old council chambers due to electrical issues, 441 4th Street, NW.
	2. Convened at 1850 hrs, adjourned at 2040 hrs.
	3. Due to move, no audio recording was made through the DC government system. The Vice-Chair recorded the meeting on her phone and we will attempt to transfer it to the government site.
	4. No meeting was held in January.
2. Board Members
	1. Voting Members Present (11): Wingo (chair), Pridemore (vice), Locks (Parliamentarian), Dalzell (Secretary), Lampkin, P. Brooks, Dier, Wynn, Khan, Patterson, D. Brooks
	2. Voting Members Absent (4): Perez, Postell, Davis, Mack
	3. Ex-oficio members present: Treadwell
	4. Ex-oficio members absent: Boyd, Preston
3. Votes taken (outside of approval of agenda, adjournment, and other routine actions):
	1. Approved version of Strategic Plan submitted by the Vice-Chair.
		1. Board members signed up for the committees described in the plan.
	2. No action was taken on proposed change of by-laws to allow voice votes. Item will be reconsidered in March.
4. Received updates from MOVA Director
	1. Director Lambert asked for board support in the district’s upcoming round of public hearings. Board members are urged to attend these events, including those of agencies whose responsibilities include veteran-related issues such as employment, housing, or health care. Members should inform the director of their intent to attend. Scheduled hearings include the following:
		1. Performance Oversight of the Office of Veterans Affairs, 17 February, starting at 1000 hrs.
		2. Budget for the OVA, 8 April, starting at 1000 hrs.
		3. Performance Oversight hearings of other DC agencies are scheduled 4 Feb-10 Mar; budget hearings are 6-26 April.
	2. The Director used the current City Council proposal to give all Veterans free vehicle registration as an example of an issue outside her purview which the board could nonetheless engage in. This was taken by Mr Khan for action by the Governmental Affairs Committee.
	3. The Director said she had created a Facebook page for the board
		1. Management of the page will be taken over by the Vice-Chair’s ad hoc communications committee.
		2. The Director, Chair, Vice-Chair and others emphasized the importance of all board members using social media to share not just the work of the board, but other information relevant to the veterans community.
5. Other actions:
	1. Mr. Khan introduced a resolution on the establishment of a Veterans’ Hall of Fame in the District of Columbia. He plans to propose the board approve it at the March meeting.
	2. Recognized the following community organizations for their service to veterans:
		1. Team Rubicon, represented by Vladimir Tamahiro-Loma, Miguel Hernandez, and Lourdes Tiglao.
			1. Team Rubicon also gave a summary of their programs, which include assisting veterans’ transitions, supporting disaster response efforts through veterans’ skills and manpower, and community service projects to maintain readiness and develop connections.
		2. 100 Fathers, Stephany Perry, Vice Chair
			1. 100 Fathers was recognized for their support of the “Home for the Holidays” lease up event.
		3. Edmund Hatch, Senior Vice and Oran Danzy, Chief of Staff of the DC Veterans of Foreign Wars
			1. VFW was acknowledged for their support of the Filipino Heritage Month celebration of World War II veterans.
	3. Received planned presentations by local organizations supporting veterans:
		1. Darren Lloyd and Christine Nguyen, Selective Service System, dlloyd@sss.gov
			1. DC has an overall registration rate of 46%, barely half the national level of 88%. This can have an impact on individuals later in life, when it affects their ability to apply for government jobs, student loans, or other programs. Because of the age limit for registration, failing to register when required cannot be “undone” later in life.
			2. Mr Lloyd reviewed ways volunteers can support the SSS, including acting as SSS registrars in high schools (25 of 55 DC high schools currently have a registrar) and serving on local boards when SSS is activated.
			3. The board shared questions and thoughts with the SSS representatives.
6. Due-outs from board members or committees:
	1. Vice-Chair will reach out to absent members and send a full list of committee assignments before the next meeting.
	2. Those without a working dcbc email address will contact the appropriate person in the District staff to identify the problem and fix it.
	3. All members were encouraged to bring one or more veterans to the monthly meetings, and to engage with the ANC commissioners in their Ward.
7. Upcoming meetings and events
	1. Other government hearings as described above
	2. Working meeting to discuss Performance Oversight Hearing, probably 9 or 10 February.
	3. “March 4 Veterans Rights”: 28 May, 0900-1800, Washington Monument Grounds.
	4. Monthly board meeting: 1 March, Suite 540 South, 1830 hrs. See <http://www.bega-dc.gov/board-commissions-meetings/mayors-advisory-board-veterans-affairs> for agenda.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen R. Dalzell

Secretary