



# **HARFORD COUNTY COMMISSION ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**From**

**June 3, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Robert Brown at 6:30PM via MS Teams.

**Attending:** Bob Brown, Lisa Brown, Art Kaff, Jennifer Button, Bill Montgomery, Colonel Druell, Pam Silcox, Scott Kearby, Deacon Vic Petrosino, and Ryan Koch, Legislative Aide for Councilman Andre Johnson (liaison), and Dennis Miller.

**Excused:** Mike Ray, Hayden Anthony, Janice Cassady, Robert Appleby, and Denise Perry

**Guests:** Simon Ballard, CSM Drewitt, Joe Giordano, and Maryland Senator Bob Cassilly

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bill Montgomery. Open Prayer was 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:**

Amended Minutes from the May 6th meeting were approved. Art Kaff making the motion to approve and Scott Kearby second.

### **GUEST SPEAKERS:**

Senator Cassilly thanked those who attended the various Memorial Day ceremonies and provided updates on the legislation that was introduced into the Maryland General Assembly. Senator Cassilly described each piece of legislation that impacted veterans and whether it was approved or not. Senate Bills 338, 269, 180, and 164 were approved but Senate Bills 656 and 575 did not pass. House Bill 872 was approved.

Joe Giordano gave information on the Project Opportunity Graduation in May. There were eight graduates, and Mr. Giordano discussed each and their respective projects. Next year there will be two classes, one for military spouses and one for military veterans.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- MOAA Community Project Update. Jennifer Button reported that the workgroup had a meeting and scheduled the second meeting. MOAA is working on sponsorship, flyers, and items for awards. They are considering having items printed by a 3D printer. Jenn asked if anyone has

access to a printer that they contact her or Lisa. Lisa is working on the rubric for judging. She should have something within the next few weeks to share. They are also working on the specifics of the judging panel. Colonel Druell said the Army Research Lab has a 3D printer and he will check into it. He then asked if we could check if it was legal for the Garrison to sponsor the contest. The Commander and Senior Commander could award the 3D coins. Colonel Druell said he would re-engage with the lawyer at APG.

- Jennifer Button has been working on the Veterans Discount Book. She is communicating with the Office of Economic Development and Cindy Mumby's office for support on the survey.
- Crisis Intercept Mapping Project. There are no updates.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Legislative Issues. None.
- Legal Issues. None.
- Programs and Outreach
  - Sgt Alfred B. Hilton Memorial Groundbreaking Ceremony. Art Kaff attended the ceremony and said it was very well-attended and a very moving event. Art added that several people in the community contributed to the building of the memorial.
  - Military Appreciation Event May 20<sup>th</sup>. Mike Ray attended but was not present at the meeting to give a report.
- Information for the County Executive and/or County Council. None.
- Assistance Requests.
  - Chairperson Brown mentioned that there were several benefits requests during the month. These were passed on to VSO's for action.
- Public Events and Recognition.
  - Chairperson Brown reported on the reading of County Bill 21-011 at the recent County Council meeting, which is the renaming of the Veterans Commission to the "James V. 'Capt'n Jim' McMahan Veterans Commission. The Bill will be voted on in a future County Council meeting.
  - The Veterans Commission was represented at the Bel Air Memorial Day ceremony. They presented a wreath and provided refreshments while distributing the "Save the Date" flyers. Art Kaff reported on other ceremonies in the County and said all were well attended.
  - Chairperson Brown asked for a volunteer to be the point of contact for the Veterans Commission and coordinate our marching in the parade. The Veterans Commission will march in the parade and family members can march as well. Dennis Miller volunteered to coordinate the Commission's participation.
  - Pam Silcox reported on the November 13<sup>th</sup> Veterans Resource Fair planning. She sent the "Save the Date" information out and received very positive responses from the vendors.

### **MEMBER UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Scott Kearby said he reached out to Mission Barbecue, which is coming to Bel Air, and suggested to their local corporate office some local veterans that they could commemorate.
- Denise Perry could not be at the meeting but sent some information on changes to the clothing allowance that will be sent to Commission members.

- Colonel Druell announced this will be his last meeting as he is PCS'ing to South Carolina. Members thanked him for his outstanding support of the Veterans Commission and for providing a vital link to APG that the Commission did not have previously.
- Simon Ballard stated he has developed a survey that may be used with the Crisis Intervention Mapping. The purpose of the survey, which will be distributed to veterans, is to determine their level of awareness of suicide prevention and assistance programs and offices in the county. He will forward the survey for comment. They are trying to find ways to get the surveys out to veterans. Simon then asked that a flyer he has from Community Services for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Job and Resource Fair be placed on the Facebook page. This is for people impacted by incarceration.
- CSM Drewitt will be the APG representative continuity during the transition between Colonel Druell and Colonel Casiano.

### **FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Next meeting is scheduled for August 5, 2021 and will be held via MS Teams.
- Meetings are scheduled for the first Thursday of the month unless otherwise announced.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:16pm.

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](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)