

U.S. Military Veterans Advisory Committee
Wednesday, March 6, 2019 11:07 AM
Dunedin Community Center – Admin Conference Meeting Room

Minutes

Members Present: Sid Damsgard (Chair/ALG Commander), Larri Gerson (Secretary/VAM), Mal Clingan (VM/MOPH JFK1963), Sandi Sunter (Committee on Aging/M), Chester Pyatt (Commander VFW Post 2550), Father Bob Swick (Vice Chair/VM), Lori Badders (M), Dillard M. Jones "Mike" (A/M), Edward Hughes (Cares).

Members Absent: Pastor Jason Knott (Pastor), Barry Covers (A/M), Exc-Mary Ann Keller (V/M), Resigned- Peter Krulder (VM).

Mtn.: Excused Mary Ann Keller from March 6, 2019 meeting.

By: VFW Commander Chester Pyatt

2nd: Sandi Sunter

Approved: Unanimous - Yes

City Staff: Lanie Sheets (Parks & Recreation Superintendent), Jorie Peterson (Special Events Coordinator).

Guests: None

Pledge of Allegiance: Sid Damsgard (Chair) **Inspiration:** Father Bob Swick

Guest Speaker: Rachel Landon, widow of Sgt Eric Landon. Ms Landon addressed the committee about her husband's suicide. At the time he was a father, son and a veteran. To honor her husband's first anniversary of his death, she created with the help of many friends, family and the City of Dunedin the Sgt Eric Landon Stop Soldier Suicide 5k Run (non-competitive) on the Pinellas Trail. The 4th Annual 5K Run to be held on, Sunday, November 10, 2019 (Hale Center to/from San Christopher). Ms. Landon spoke of the national statistic, average of 22 veterans commit suicide per day. In the news, veterans are committing suicide at the VA Medical Centers. The City of Dunedin Parks/Recs., local businesses and non-profits helped in the past with the Bounce House, face painting, Kiwanis Fund Raiser breakfast at the end of the run, raffle tickets, American Legion/VFW with water stations, Paws for Patriots (service animals). This event is underwritten by the Holland Group (parents of Sgt. Eric Landon). Discussion held with the committee to provide networking (VA Regional Office, FDVA, Pinellas County Veterans Service Office), contacts, volunteer and support as needed. Table to be available for this Committee and staffed with members.

Approval of minutes of Jan 9, 2019 meeting

Mtn.: Approval of the minutes of Jan 9, 2019 meeting.

By: Father Bob Swick

2nd: Lori Badders

Approved: Unanimous - Yes

Old Business:

1. Dunedin's Veterans Parade 2019 –

Mtn.: Partnership with the Sgt Eric Landon Stop Soldier Suicide 5k Run (non-competitive), tentative date to be held on Sunday, November 10, 2019. Agree to provide network, contacts, volunteer and support as needed.

By: Father Bob Swick

2nd: Mal Clingan

Approved: Unanimous – Yes

2. Review U.S. Military Veterans Advisory Committee Resolution establishing this committee.

Mtn.: To change the mandatory member, Pastor or someone who serves in a pastoral capacity at a church located within the City of Dunedin, to ex-facto/advisor to the committee.

By: Chester Pylatt

2nd: Lori Badders

Approved: Unanimous - Yes

3. Annual election of Officers.

Mtn.: To continue the position of Chair Sig Damsgard, Vice Chair Father Bob Swick, Secretary Larri Gerson

By: Mike Jones

2nd: Mal Clingman

Approved: Unanimous - Yes

4. Update on Alternate Position/Vacancy: Accepted resignation of Peter Krulder (V/Member).

Mtn.: To move up Mike Jones from Alternate to Member.

By: Larri Gerson

2nd: Sandi Sunter

Approved: Unanimous - Yes

5. Discussion about the Annual Committee Report, committee review, report to Commission.

Info: Chair Sig Damsgard read his draft Committee Report. Several recommended changes to the report. Chair will have final version available for the next Committee meeting.

New Business:

1. **Quilts of Valor: Lori Badders** - Recommend 15 quilts available for the Purple Heart Ceremony August 2019.

Announcements:

1. **Senior Hall of Fame: Sandi Sunter (Chair of Aging)** – Applications available beginning March 26, 2019. Winner announced at the luncheon on May 8, 2019 guest speaker Dunedin City Manager Jennifer Bramley.

Agenda for next meeting:

1. Discussion about the Annual Committee Report, committee review, report to Commission
2. Vote on new members
3. Update on Purple Heart Park wall
4. Sgt Eric Landon Stop Soldier Suicide 5k Run (non-competitive), tentative date to be held on Sunday, November 10, 2019
5. Quilts of Valor
6. Shirts for Committee members

Next meeting date: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at 11am.

Adjournment: 12:25 pm.