

Township of Egg Harbor

Veterans Advisory Board

Cardiff VFW Post 8098
3029 Spruce Avenue, EHT

March 24, 2014

MINUTES

Member Ebert called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and members held a moment of silence for the departed.

Roll Call: Dan Clayton – Present
Milas Cook – *Absent, excused*
Mike Ebert – Present
William Hegarty – Present
Paul Hodson – *Absent, excused*
Douglas Lundberg, Jr. – Present
Pat Moschetto – *Absent, excused*
John Rush – Present

Guests: None.

APPROVALS

¶ Minutes of February 24, 2014

Last meeting minutes were read by Member Lundberg.

Member Rush expressed a concern of how the absence of Member Hodson and the present lack of a chairperson was noted in the minutes written by Member Lundberg. At issue was that it could be interpreted in a negative fashion.

Member Lundberg stated that there was no ill thoughts present when the statement was written, and that he only wished to give an accurate account of who led the meeting and why it was necessary. Lundberg offered to revise the section if the Board had a better way of conveying it.

Members individually re-read the section in question, and a motion was put forward:

- Motion to accept minutes as read without revision:
→ Motion made by Ebert, second Clayton. All present voted yes except Rush who voted no. Motion passed by majority.

Members further clarified that reasons for member absence need not be noted. Minutes should note only Present; Absent; or Absent, excused.

OLD BUSINESS

§ Veterans Advisory Board Resolution Modernization

Member Ebert and Lundberg informed the Board that the Resolution Modernization is on hold until Township Mayor McCullough attends the April Board meeting to review and discuss the revisions the Board is requesting.

As this is an important issue, Board members stated that they look forward to receiving feedback from the Township Committee on the matter.

§ 2014 Board Appointments

Member Ebert suggested that the Board postpone establishing Board appointments until meeting with Mayor McCullough at the April meeting.

In addition, Ebert mentioned that he did not receive email notification that Board Appointments would be voted on tonight's meeting, and as such, thought other members may not have been properly notified either.

The Board agreed to postpone appointments based on these notions.

§ Memorial Day 2014 Continued Preparation

Audio: Member Clayton will again provide the usage of his personal audio equipment for the ceremony. Members thanked him for his huge contribution to the success of the ceremony.

Speakers: Member Ebert requested ideas for ceremony speakers, and the Board looked forward to having fresh speakers. Ebert asked, and Lundberg gave, an update on contacting SSG Estergren's family to find if they are willing to participate in a dedication for him. He will type up a letter to mail to his family. If the Estergren family is unable to participate, another member from the Memorial Park stone will be selected for the dedication.

Member Rush stated that a possibility of securing former Undersecretary of Defense Koch as well as a 1-star general for speakers. He was encouraged to work on this.

Members agreed having two speakers and the Estergren dedication would be the limit.

Events: Member Ebert will reach out to EHTHS Band Director Dominic Scalfaro in order to secure the band to play patriotic melodies as well as taps.

Members expressed interest in bringing fresh faces to the ceremony. Member Lundberg remembered that during the time capsule dedication for the Township's 300th Anniversary, that Township Historian June Sheridan's granddaughter had sung a patriotic song of high quality.

Lundberg will reach out to the family to see their interest in presenting 1-2 patriotic selections. Member Clayton needs to be notified of any music requirements.

The Board will ask Member Moschetto to provide his excellent singing to the ceremony.

Miscellaneous Setup: The Board will request Member Hodson to provide flags to hand out, chairs for the special speakers and family, and bleachers, as well as the other things he normally does for event preparation.

Ceremony Location: Member Clayton asked the Board about the ceremony location at Veteran's Memorial Park. Last year the side piece towards Swift Drive worked better than the front, however, it was still too crowded. Members decided would be best to meet at the memorial in order to investigate the possibility of using another side, for example the backside, instead.

Registration/ Advertisement: Member Lundberg advised the Board that Township Secretary Hughes has been receiving requests for parade registration. He is to inform her to proceed with both registration and the issuance of flyers with the day and time of **Monday May 26 at 9:00AM for parade start.**

Parade Setup/ Events: Setup location of the parade is the same as previous years.

Member Lundberg spoke about the feedback he received concerning last year's Memorial Day parade. The biggest complaint was there has not been any military participation for many years now. He suggested the Board try to remedy this.

Lundberg will reach out to the USCG Air Station to see if they are willing to march in the parade. Member Clayton suggested reaching out to the USCG boat group in Atlantic City as well. Lundberg will also reach out to the 177th Air National Guard to see about their participation. He remembers that years ago they used to bring out the fire/crash/rescue trucks to the parade as well as having service members marching.

Member Ebert will attempt to have the USMC silent drill team march in the parade.

Member Clayton noted last year's success of asking those who participate in the parade to have a patriotic/Memorial Day themed float. His recommendation is to assure the same this year.

⚔ Pathway Bricks at Veterans Memorial Park

Members discussed the pathway brick project and the Memorial park in general. It was decided that the Memorial Park as a whole needs to be rehabilitated and that these ideas could be discussed with Mayor McCullough during the meeting he attends. Depending on the future of the Memorial Park, if improvements can be arranged by the Township then the pathway bricks could be a strong point of the Memorial.

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Member Clayton asked that if the Board decided to proceed with the pathway bricks how the Board would deal with the money generated by the project. Member Rush had thought that the Township would deal with the money.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday April 28, 2014 at **6:30 PM**.

Time and location tentatively at Veterans Memorial Park in order to decide placement of the ceremony for Memorial Day.

Member Ebert will attempt to secure a room inside the Atlantic County Library so that the meeting can be held after site review.

- Motion to adjourn the meeting made at 8:25 PM:
→ Motion made by Clayton, second Hegarty. All present voted- yes.

Douglas Lundberg, Member
Acting Secretary