

MATTHEWS VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 5, 2017

Minutes

Chairman Fisk Outwater called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. at Matthews Town Hall with a quorum present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A moment of silence followed.

Committee Members present: Fisk Outwater, Tom Cannon, Jack Santaniello, Angelo Renguso, Amanda Kohout, Larry Stawicki, Kathleen Wilsbach, Freddie Baylor, Dessi Dufresne and Joe Bochicchio (by Telcom)

Guests welcomed: Guest speaker, Robert (Bob) J. Becker, Jr., Military and Veterans Specialist from the office of Representative Robert Pittenger, 9th District, NC. Bob Becker has been working at this office for 16 years and has tracked over 400,000 Mecklenburg County veterans handling veteran appeals and veteran pension issues. He passed a flyer to all regarding The 15th Annual U.S. Service Academy Day, Saturday, April 29, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at Charlotte Catholic High School with a request to pass to high school students interested in attending a U. S. Service Academy. Email contact for Bob is Robert.Becker@mail.house.gov.

Dessi Dufresne introduced potential member Nate Huggins, CEO of Blessed Assurance Day Care Center in Matthews which offers nursing, peer support and other services to those in need including veterans. Nate is an Army veteran, past president of the ToM Chamber of Commerce and member of other civic organizations in the area.

Minutes of March 1, 2107. The minutes were approved as transmitted.

Old Business:

1. Subcommittee 1.

a. Tom Cannon announced that the ToM hired Maureen Keith as a part-time Communications Coordinator. Maureen will send out MVAC press releases. The first MVAC press release was approved January 24th by ToM but never submitted to the media. A second press release will feature the Vietnam exhibit to be held in May at the Matthews Community Center. Amanda Kohout will coordinate with Maureen concerning the Website and Facebook.

b. The two MVAC banners have arrived and were delivered to Rad Pate, ToM staff liaison to MVAC, for safekeeping.

c. Tom developed a 10-minute MVAC power point briefing to be shown at a future ToM staff meeting as an introduction to the MVAC.

d. Packets for potential members was completed with Bylaws, SOPs, Summary of Subcommittees, Calendar of Events and Membership. These packets will be updated as needed with a cover letter from our Chairman.

e. Subcommittee 1 has completed a budget to include paid advertising for newspapers.

2. Subcommittee 2.

a. Amanda has changed the calendar showing two-months of veteran events. Her goal is to broaden the audience beyond MVAC with Facebook and Website.

b. Freddie Baylor reported that the introductory meeting with local area veterans will be held on June 17th at the Mount Moriah Church Fellowship Hall from 9-11 a.m. A flyer is being created with a registration requirement to be distributed to various locations. MVAC members are requested to volunteer for set-up, meet and greet and cleanup teams. A program for attendees will include military music, a welcome by MVAC Chairman, Pledge of Allegiance, full breakfast, MVAC briefing and Q&A. It was suggested by Freddie that the Town Council be invited to attend.

3. Subcommittee 3. No report.

4. **Subcommittee 4.** In Greg Smith's absence, Larry Stawicki reported that a rough draft of the project to produce a local resource guide like the NC4Vets will be ready mid to late summer. At a March 8th subcommittee meeting it was decided that the guide would include three parts—(1) local resource organizations; (2) companies that give veteran discounts; and, (3) other military organizations. Larry said that some out-of-state resources are valuable and will be included. The goal is to eliminate repetition.

5. Treasurer Jack Santaniello requested subcommittees submit its budgets to him as soon as possible. Each committee received forms to do so.

6. Fisk gave an update on the Vietnam War Exhibit to be held at the Matthews Community Center as follows:

a. Amanda's husband will create a flyer for the exhibit.

b. A place to store the exhibit is needed prior to set up.

c. Set-up will be on May 19th in Room 204 at the Community Center.

d. Exhibit will be open to the public from May 20th to May 29th.

Weekday exhibit hours will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Weekend hours will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. On May 29th (Memorial Day) exhibit hours will be 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Breakdown will be on May 30th.

e. This exhibit will be a partnership event with the American Legion. Fisk will attend the next American Legion to plug the event.

f. Amanda will work on an on-line sign up sheet for volunteers for exhibit.

g. Tom Cannon is working on a press release and flyers distributed.

h. After a discussion about including outside items to be exhibited, it was deemed that the ToM liability was too great to include other items.

7. Signature Event briefing by Fisk as follows:

a. Fisk sent a detailed proposal package to members of the Town Board of Commissioners prior to the Council meeting to be held on March 27th. Fisk attended that meeting and gave a briefing of the conceptual plan to the Commissioners.

b. Fisk asked the commissioners for names to head the Signature Event as the MVAC acts in an advisory capacity to the ToM. The Mayor suggested that perhaps this event could be held at the same time as other ToM events. Commissioner Urban suggested the Red Brick Partnership would be interested in helping with this event. Fisk emphasized that this is a unique event for veterans and could stand alone. Fisk will

send the ToM a proposal with additional suggestions. Tom Cannon suggested that Subcommittee 2 goals for the Signature Event could be helpful.

8. Fisk provided the MVAC with a copy of the Framework for Executive Summary to be presented to the ToM on April 17th which includes:

- (1) Accomplishments of the year.
- (2) Goals for the upcoming year.
- (3) More information on committee if desired.

Fisk will be prepared to discuss any suggestions on productivity, accomplishments and collaboration between committees.

New Business:

1. Fisk announced that the updates to the Bylaws have been approved by the ToM. Copies will be distributed at a later date on ToM email.

2. Election of Officers. A slate will be presented at the May 3rd meeting. If there are proposed names to be added contact Rad Pate at Town Hall. A vote will be taken at the June meeting for start of new fiscal year July 1, 2017. Rad stated that the treasurer will count the votes and the secretary will record.

3. Speaker assignments. Fisk proposed that each subcommittee be responsible for a speaker once a quarter and the executive board be assigned two.

4. Thank you notes have been designed and printed and business cards are being ordered for Fisk and Tom using the ToM format. Fisk asked if anybody on the committee needed their own business cards and Amanda suggested that committee members use Fisk's card and add their contact information on the back of the card. The committee was in agreement.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by:
Kathleen Wilsbach, Secretary