

**VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
Bergenfield Public Library
October 14, 2023
10:30 AM
MINUTES**

1. Meeting Called to Order at 10:35 AM.

2. Chairman's Statement

Committee Chairman Warren Williams called the meeting to order by reading the Open Public Meeting Act and the notice requirements have been satisfied. Meeting dates are confirmed at the Annual Meeting. Notices of this committee's meeting are here by posted on two municipal public notice bulletin boards, published on the websites for the Borough of Bergenfield and the Veterans Advisory Committee and on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk.

3. Roll Call

Roll Call	Present	Absent
Yvonne Aponte, Member	X	
Edgar Garcia, Member	X	
Thomas Lang, Vice Chairman	X	
Marc Pascual, Council Liaison	X	
Richard Morf, Member	X	
Dina Moore, Member	X	
Willie Moree Jr, Member	X	
Dr. Samuel Paul, Chaplin	X	
Fredrick Sahlberg, Member	X	
Wilfred Selby, Member		X
Joseph Sokol, Member		X
Jose Vasquez, Secretary	X	
Benjamin Whaley, Member		X
Amos White, Member		X
Warren Williams, Chairman	X	

4. Flag Salute

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Chairman Thomas Lang

5. Invocation (Chaplin)

Invocation was given by the Committee Chaplin Dr. Samuel Paul

6. Agenda Changes (Additions/Deletion or Revisions)

No Changes to Agenda

7. Approval of Minutes (September 2023)

Motion Offered by Thomas Lang and **Second** by Dina Moore to approve minutes for September 23, 2023, Regular Committee Meeting minutes and to be published on the website for the Veterans Advisory Committee. All present voting in favor and none oppose.

8. Treasury Report (October 2023)

The current balance of funds available is \$1,886.63. The committee has donated \$200 to the VFW Post and Auxiliary back in August 2023. There are no other expenses or billing transactions during this reporting period of September 23, 2023 to October 14, 2023.

Motion Offered by Yvonne Aponte and **Second** by Ricard Morf to approve the committee's treasury report for the period of September 23, 2023 to October 14, 2023. All present voting in favor and none oppose.

9. Presentation

No Presentation at this moment

10. Correspondence

No Correspondence at this moment

11. Unfinished Business

a. Veterans Day (Update)

- Veterans Day Program and Flyer need to be updated.
- Ceremony Opening Speaker (Sgt Major Williams, Committee Chairman) Confirmed
- Pledge of Allegiance (DVA Commander) Waiting Confirmation
- National Anthem Vocalist – (Isaiah Martinez) Confirmation
- Invocation Prayer (Dr. Samuel Paul, Committee Chaplin) Confirmed
- Benediction Prayer (Father Sean, St. John Church) Confirmed
- Honor Guard – (Bergenfield Police Department) Confirmed
- City & County Governing Officials (Invited) Waiting Confirmation
- State Governing Officials (Invited) Waiting Confirmation
- Congressman Gottenhiemer (Invited) Waiting Confirmation
- Taps Bugler – (Declan Timmons, Bergenfield HS Marching Band) Confirmation

b. Discuss Plan for Holiday Dinner for Veterans & Family

- Date: December 9, 2023
- Time & Location: 2-7PM or food runs out, Bergenfield VFW Post Main Hall.
- Paramus Veterans Home (Need Number) of veterans coming.
- Non-Veterans: Pay \$10 for a plate of food as a donation to VFW.
- Flyer- create a flyer and put the information out.

12. New Business

a. Table Ideas for Fundraising Activities

- Poppy Buddy to raise funds for the post and committee.
- Business in town to make donation to the committee.
- Need to create a flyer prior to asking for donations for VFW & Committee
- Create a list of businesses to target.
- Create a letter for a person or business giving donation for tax purposes.
- Need volunteers for the upcoming Trunk & Treat

- Use Poppy Buddies as fundraising.

b. Table Veterans Information Resource Workshop

- Check for location to have workshop.
- Get local veterans enrolled into VA Healthcare.
- Give veterans information about what VA benefits entitle too.
- Create flyer to be sent out for workshop in Spring 2024.
- Need to invite state and county resounds and VSOs.
- Need setup a plan for small group of 20-30 attendees.

c. State Service Medal Ceremony (Update)

- Received information from Mr. Chuck Robbins NJDMAVA Medal Ceremony.
- Have at least 20-30 Veterans approved for us to come to your location to conduct a ceremony.
- The Veterans applying must fill out a DMAVA Medal Application (example attached), attach a copy of their DD-214 or discharge papers (WWII vets) to it and either mail, or scan it back to us, at least 30 days prior to the actual date of the Medal Ceremony. This allows them to properly process the application and get Certificates from the Governor and Adjutant General.
- Selecting a designated person could also collect all the applications and either arrange pick-up with us or drop them off.
- Give two (2) dates you would like us to conduct the Medal Ceremony. It must be Monday-Friday, the preferred time would be 11:00am.
- I will also need a confirmed location and the proper address where we will be coming to conduct the Ceremony.
- Need a podium & PA system with microphone will be needed at the location of ceremony.
- If you want any legislators to be at the event need to let Mr. Robbins' office to know.
- Inform Mr. Robbins of any other Township, County, or State officials you may invite or who will be attending.
- DMAVA will do their best to get you an Officer with a rank of Colonel or higher to be the presenter. (Be aware that this on occasion does not always happen). Lt COL's and CWO's have presented in the past at these events.

13. Public Comment – Please be advised there will be a limit of three (5) minutes per speaker and each speaker and each may speak only once.

No persons present for Public Comment

14. Good of the Order

- NJ VFW Eastern Conference (October 20 – 22 October, 2023, Atlantic City, NJ)
- Veterans' Health & Resource Fair, October 21, 2023, Secaucus Vet Center, Secaucus NJ)
- Bergenfield VFW Auxiliary Bus Trip (October 28, 2023, Atlantic City Casino)
- Bergenfield Annual Veterans Appreciation Day Ceremony, November 8, 2023, Bergenfield HS)

15. Committee Comments (Members Only)

a. Kill In Action (KIA) Flag

- KIA flag replace for Italian flag. This is not to be replaced by any foreign country flag.
- KIA flag is an official State flag IAW NJ Rev Stat § 52:3-14 (2017)
- The flag shall be displayed during normal business hours at the State House in Trenton, the principal municipal building in each municipality, and the principal county building in each county seat.

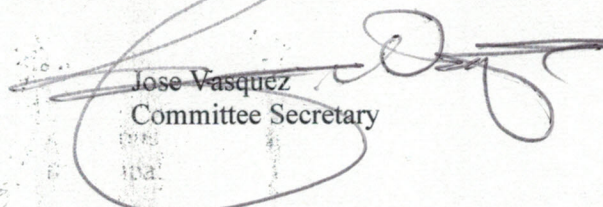
b. New Borough Municipal Building (Flag Poles & Flags)

- All building flag poles and flag for new Borough Municipal Building must follow the guidelines in accordance with the USC Title-4 Code US Flag Manual when comes to the height of flag poles and flag size.

16. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Veterans Advisory Committee. The meeting is adjourned **Motion Offered** by Thomas Lang **Second** by Fredrick Sahlberg to adjourn the meeting. All present voting in favor and none oppose. The ended at 12:00PM. The next schedule committee meeting will be on November 18, 2023; time 10:30 AM, at the location of Bergenfield Public Library.

Respectfully Submitted


Jose Vasquez
Committee Secretary