



Kent County Veterans Services

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DRAFT minutes 9-5-19

Present: Mel Bauman, Mary Johnson, Trish Sexton, Shane Scherer, Randy Tharp, John Baxter

Absent: Harold Mast

Guests: Tony Torres, Mary Sumner, Zenatta Adams, Jerry Dennis, Paul Ryan, Theresa Ergang, Reginald A. Fariior, Tyler Jones

1. Meeting called to Order – The meeting was called to order by Veterans Services Committee Chair Mel Bauman at 8:30am
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Committee Chair Mel Bauman led those in attendance to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Approval of Minutes –
 - a. Committee Member Shane Scherer made a motion to approve the minutes. Committee Member Trisha Sexton seconded. UNANIMOUS
4. Introductions-
 - a. Zenatta Adams Director of MVAA
 - b. New hires for the Veterans Services Department, Tyler Jones VSO, Theresa Ergang VSO, Reginald A. Fariior Clerk II.
5. Managers, Monthly Operational Update Reports – Veterans Services Supervisor Ryan Grams went over the Monthly Activity Report
6. Old Business –
 - a. Manager Martha Burkett went through the steps that had been taken with MVAA and the Grant of 2019, there will be one month of payment to the VSO out of the MVAA Grant
 - b. Martha shared that she will be attending a class on the MVAA Grant of 2020, and it will not be used for personnel in the future. Burkett has already filled out an intent to file for the Grant in 2020
7. New Business-
 - a. Martha recently attended a WINC meeting in Muskegon and shared her thoughts on perhaps starting group therapies in our offices.
8. Survey Responses – 13

9. Around the Table

- a. Paul Ryan with United Veterans Council wanted to remind everyone present
 - i. September 22nd Resource Fair at the Freedom Cruise at 5/3 Ball Park, there are 1200 attendees expected
 - ii. October 24th VCAT Region 4 putting on an employee resource group at Herman Miller in Holland
 - iii. November 2nd Ceremony for Kent County Veteran of the Year
 - iv. November 11th Veterans Day Parade- evening parade.
- b. Jerry Dennis also with United Veterans Council wanted to let everyone know:
 - i. September 28th Grattan Raceway Fundraiser for Michigan Wounded Warrior
 - ii. There was a change in eligibility for the American Legion, prior to know the dates were set by war era, now however, all honorably discharged veterans can join the American Legion

10. Public Comment – NONE

11. Adjournment –Veterans Services Committee Chair Mel Bauman moved adjourned the meeting at 9:26am, Committee Member Trish Sexton 2nded

12. The next Veterans Services Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, October 3rd, at 8:30am in the Veterans Services front conference room.