



## Kent County Veterans Services

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DRAFT minutes 11-7-19

Present: Mel Bauman, Mary Johnson, Trish Sexton, John Baxter, Harold Mast  
Absent: Randy Tharp, Shane Scherer  
Guests: Matthew VanZetten Assistant County Administrator, Jill Matthews of WINC, Dan Ophoff, Jerry Dennis, Paul Ryan, Lisa Bykirk, Mary Sumner, Theresa Robinson

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 Member John Baxter led those in attendance to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Approval of Minutes –
  - a. Committee Member John Baxter made a motion to approve the minutes. UNANIMOUS
4. Introductions-
  - a. Jill Matthews with WINC
5. Managers, Monthly Operational Update Reports – Veterans Services Supervisor Ryan Grams went over the Monthly Activity Report
6. Presentations- Jill Matthews with WINC showed a short video and gave a presentation about what WINC is and what they do
7. Old Business – NONE
8. New Business-
  - a. Following the WINC presentation, the committee communicated amongst each other that they would like to get involved in some capacity and asked that Martha put something together about their involvement.
    - i. Manager Martha Burkett included that she thought it could be a great partnership between the Veterans Treatment Court and WINC as well.
  - b. Committee Member Harold Mast wanted to bring up commissioning an art piece from an artist in his neighborhood.
    - i. Matthew VanZetten brought up that he wanted to make sure that it would align with in the county policy, and with what Veterans Services is trying to accomplish. Vice Chair Mary Johnson shared that while she thought the picture was nice, she would like to see a male and female veteran in the painting.

- ii. Manager Martha Burkett thought that perhaps instead of commissioning an artist for a single piece of art, that perhaps contracting an artist to do some sort of art groups out of our offices, to gain some therapeutic value.
- iii. Committee Member Harold Mast made a motion to have Martha take a phone call and meet with this artist to speak about options of therapeutic art programs. Committee Member John Baxter seconded, UNANIMOUS.
- c. Committee Member John Baxter shared that he had recently spoke at Grand Valley State University and had a veteran come up to him and share with him that he was part of the Veterans Treatment Court and Baxter thought that was quite a testimony to the Treatment Court
- d. Committee Chair Mel Bauman brought up the need for funds to move a Marine Corps Memorial monument from the Marines Reserve Center, to the Veterans Home.
  - i. Assistant County Administrator Matthew VanZetten said he would do some research with the counties legal council to see if funding from the millage would be an eligible expenditure. Paul Ryan from the United Veterans Council will send Matthew necessary documents.

## 9. Survey Responses – 2

## 10. Around the Table

### 11. Public Comment –

- a. Theresa Robinson of the United Veterans Council commended the staff that showed up for the 10k put on by 92 for 22. She also wanted to know how the donation made by the department fit in with the millage and wondered where the line is drawn with donating to all causes. Theresa Robinson also shared that she thinks it's disappointing that veterans don't have more say when it comes to the Veterans Memorial Park and within the Historical Committee.
- b. Jerry Dennis with the United Veterans Council wanted to remind everyone in attendance that November 11<sup>th</sup> is the Veterans Day Parade and Committee Vice Chair Mary Johnson will be speaking at the commencement ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park. Step off is at 7pm
- c. Paul Ryan with many organization announcements, October 24<sup>th</sup> Employers Resource Group Symposium in Holland, also November 7<sup>th</sup> at Creston Brewery in Grand Rapids, November 21<sup>st</sup> at Calvin University, Express Employment Professionals is putting on a conference, expecting 100-150 employers to attend. November 2<sup>nd</sup> is Kent County Veteran of the Year awards Dinner, Committee Member Trish Sexton is to speak then.

### 12. Adjournment –Veterans Services Committee Chair Mel Bauman moved adjourned the meeting at 9:26am, there will be a 5 minute break and then a closed session for SSR Application review.

### 13. The next Veterans Services Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, November 7th, at 8:30am in the Veterans Services front conference room.