

**Prince George's County Veteran's Commissioner's  
Meeting Minutes  
November 6, 2017  
6420 Allentown Road, Camp Springs, MD**

Chairman Kelvin Harris call the meeting to order at 6:05pm

- Commissioner's recited the pledge of allegiance
- Chairman took Roll Call
- Secretary read minutes from last meeting; Commissioner Dickens move to have discussion of DAV transportation added to minutes; Commissioner Nordhorn motion minutes be approved with addition of DAV discussion, other Commissioners second minutes.
- On October 9, 2017, an Emergency meeting was called to discussed proposed property tax bills for elderly citizens of Prince George's County; changes of Bill was discussed; Commissioner Martel and Curtis Cutler testified before council that bill should be tabled for further discussions; they mention the property Bill need to be re-tabled and address; Chairman Harris thank everyone for coming out to support Bill. Proposed changes were presented to council at October 12, 2017 Prince George's County Council meeting.
- Alternate Secretary Commissioner Yolanda Hendricks-Roach read minutes from Emergency meeting; Commissioner Nordhorn motion minutes be approved and Commissioner Hollis second minutes to be published.

**Old Business**

- Chairman Harris notated if there is no changes to old business motion we move to new business; motion was carried to move to new business.

**New Business**

- Chairman requested feedback from Prince George's County Homeless Veterans Stand Down that was held on November 4, 2017; Commissioners who attended included Yolanda Hendricks-Roach, Trulesta Pauling, Richard Hollis and Ron Dickens; Commissioner Martel and Harris help set-up the previous day.
- Feedback came from Commissioner Yolanda Hendricks-Roach, Commissioner Pauling, Commissioner Hollis and Commissioner Watson: Commissioners who attended observed poor attendance, not as many participants as last year; suggested there were not enough communication or advertisement; not enough flyers around the county; some staff mention maybe more than 1-day is needed for this event; suggested survey be done before event; tables were empty 2:00pm; only 5 persons sign-up at Commissioner's table; Commissioners table was poorly advertised (no tablecloth to advertise who we are , no stand-up sign/advertisement); some non-profit organization mention they want to partner with us; it was mention we should build our calendar out with organizations who would like to come out to partner with us; Commissioners would like to get access to the emails of these non-profits; Hyattsville had no flyers a week before the event; building of the calendar can be addressed at the Retreat in December; it was mention no one is responding to emails send to our email address, we need to address this issue at Retreat as well.

- Commissioner Watson mention “How can we better get the word out with flyers”; “How do we get exposure out to everyone”; VSO can get the word out to VSO’s but what about the ones that are not VSO’s; he stated this is not a question we can answer at this meeting but can discuss at Retreat in December; it should be primary topic on agenda at Retreat; he also mention some Veterans have internet and some do not, how do we address this issue?
- Commission Dickens suggested we get with Prince George’ Community College they have local broadcast every week; we should advertise there
- Commissioner Harris suggested placing ad in Andrew Gazette
- Commissioner Nordhorn mention webpage is not on business cards; next cards should include webpage address
- Commissioner Jewitt mention in laying ground work for next Retreat; it is unrealistic we can support every request; we should evaluate requirements; should come up with marketing/communication strategic on how we can filter through activities
- Commissioner Hollis mention we need to get to Veterans on the street through radio and television
- Commissioner Watson suggested we consider formation of ad hoc committees that can come up with ideas that can be vetted and brought up to the committee
- Retreat will be December 9, 2017, at Department of Family Services; Commissioner Jewitt asked if we could start early; Chairman Harris mention he will work with Mr. Cutler of availability of the building and will provide email to everyone
- Chairman Harris mention VA Winter Haven Event will take place on January 27, 2018, at VA Medical Center (VAMC); Commissioner Hendricks-Roach mention we have no materials/tablecloth for the event; Commissioner Martel mention we have nothing to hand out; there was discussion of the survey and its approval, errors on it; whether or not it was approved, etc...Chairman Harris recommend we discuss at Retreat whether or not we attend
- Commissioner Nordhorn received call from Prince George’s County Economic Development Corporation about speaking at our next meeting on “Fight Back” a training program; Chairman Harris stated we already have a speaker; in future if you want a speaker send him an email ahead of time with poc information on speaker

### **Open Floor for Guess Who Attended Meeting**

- Guest (James Fisher) mention he has experience in advertising and getting churches and ministries on local television; there was some discussion among Commissioners that you have to be non-profit organization; it was mention there are programs on local Channel 42 and 71 on Comcast; and PG County Community College has local channel as well
- Guest (Mr. Lee Morris) mention Vet Bill – He wanted to know if Bill was only for retired Veterans? Commissioner Martel stated yes, bill is only for non-retired; Commissioner Harris stated it was only for Washington and Montgomery county Veterans; Commissioner Nordhorn suggested he talk to State legislator to get Bill changes if he wanted to see changes; Mr. Morris also mention if anyone was familiar with program called RAMP from U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; if Veteran has claims in longer than 2 years or longer the new program give you

an opportunity to extradite your claim; Mr. Morris mention he tried to call the White House Call Center where you can call in your complaints; he stated he had a good news story, he called and wanted to tell them he was able to get a machine to check his blood pressure; but when he tried to call he received a message that the mail box was full, when he did get through he was told they probably didn't have him in the system; he said he also made a complaint about how long it was taking him to get his claim through, he was told they could put him on hardship...he said even thou he may not live tomorrow he filled out the claim as a hardship anyway; Commissioner Martel looked up hot-line number at White house and gave it to him.

## **Announcements**

- November is Native American month
- November 9, 2017 will be Governors Press Conference
- November 10<sup>th</sup> is Marine Birthday; Marine Ball from 6-9PM; free; will be raffle
- Legislative Caucus- VSO will participate; no appeals
- November 11<sup>th</sup> is Veterans Day
- November 11, 2017 College Park will have Veterans Day & Memorial Day for Veterans
- November 18<sup>th</sup> there will be a bridge dedication ceremony for SSgt Kendell Frederick, Woodlawn, MD
- November 23<sup>rd</sup> is Thanksgiving Day
- Ceremony at Cheltenham Cemetery on Veterans Day at 11:00am
- Charlotte Hall also celebrated their annual event Honoring Veterans on Veterans Day
- Mr. Morris mention walking club for Veterans
- Commissioner Nordhorn mention the Day After Thanksgiving is consider a State Holiday; he also mention Peace Cross should be removed; is going to full circuit court for ruling
- Women's Interactive Conference is having a Women's Benefit clinic on November 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> at their conference held at George Mason University
- Vet Center will have Mobile Unit on the Mall
- Prince George's County Vet Center will have holiday party on December 7, 2017, at Clinton, MD location, call Lynn Repasky at 202-745-8948 to RSVP from 11:00am to 3:00pm
- Next meeting will be on December 4, 2017 at 6:00pm at 6420 Allentown Road, Camp Springs, MD

**Meeting Adjourned**