

Kent County Veterans Services



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VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Department of Veterans Services Committee
July 20, 2015 – 8:30a.m.
Minutes

Paul Potter
Harold Mast
Fred Chamber
Mary Johnson
Mel Bauman

Meeting called to order at 8:23 a.m. by Chair Paul Potter.

Present: Mary Johnson, Carrie Roy, Sawyer Reedy, Mel Bauman, Samuel Haglund,
and Paul Potter.

Absent: Richard Goodrich and Harold Mast.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Open Introduction / Pledge

1. Chair Paul Potter led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

1. Jerry talked about the Grand Rapids Home for Vets and their medical care. How the medical care worked, what the Home for Vets provided, funding, etc.

Approval of Agenda / Minutes

1. Frank motioned to add additional information to the Minutes Report as an attachment and approve June's Minutes. Mary seconded. Motion passed.

Directors, Monthly Operational Update Report

1. See attachments.

2016 Budget Process

1. Carrie had mentioned that she is going to hold back on more outreach until we are able to hire more Service Officers due to our 2-3 week wait time. She had also mentioned that we have only reached out to about 5% of our Kent County Veterans, meaning we are missing 95% of our goal.
2. Paul agreed with Carrie. He mentioned that we are at that point where we need to hire more Service Officers. Carrie would like to hire two part-time Service Officers. Paul entertained a motion to hire two part-time people. Mary seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Old Business / Status Updates

1. Strategic Plan

- a. Dan Wiljanen is going to meet with the staff on July 14 to go over our weakness and opportunities.
- b. Community Rebuilders is done with their focus groups and Carrie is waiting for those reports.

New Business

1. Saddles for Soldiers

- a. Paul asked a volunteer to have sessions with these horses for this program. Fred volunteered himself. Paul would like us, as a committee, to all go and observe this program as a group. Paul will get back to the committee with a set date.
- b. Paul would like feedback from each veteran that went through with this program so we know whether or not to continue with this program.

Around the Table

1. Deliverable at June meeting

- a. Paul will provide a group tour date for Saddles for Soldiers.
- b. Carrie had mentioned the possibility of having monthly meetings for veterans with PTSD. It would be a set day out of the month, once a month. Paul mentioned putting out advertisements for PTSD groups once we get everything figured out and put together. Paul entertained a motion to move in that direction. Mel seconded. Motion passed.
- c. Carrie is putting together the 2016 budget and suggested a new line item for various extra programs, Veterans Support. The estimated total budget was suggested at \$250,000.

Adjournment

1. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 AM and the next meeting will be on Thursday, August 4th at 8:30 AM.

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