

Kent County Veterans Services



836 Fuller Ave NE Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
Phone: (616) 632-5722 e-mail: KCDVA@kentcountymi.gov
www.accesskent.com/departments/veteransservices

VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Department of Veterans Services Committee

January 4th, 2018 – 8:30a.m.

Minutes

Paul Potter, Chairman
Fred Chamber, Secretary
Harold Mast
Mary Johnson
Mel Bauman
Shane Scherer
Randy Tharp

Meeting Called to order by Secretary Fred Chambers at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Carrie Anderson, Harold Mast, Mary Johnson, Fred Chambers, Shane Scherer, Randy Tharp, Richard Goodrich

Guests: Jerry Dennis, Dan Ophoff, Lisa Byker, Paul Ryan

Absent: Paul Potter, Mel Bauman

Open Introduction / Pledge

1. Secretary Fred Chambers led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

1. Dan Ophoff from Veterans Treatment Court wanted to introduce the new part time probation officer Lisa Byker

Approval of Agenda / Minutes

1. Secretary Fred Chambers made a motion to approve the Minutes from December meeting, Mary Johnson seconded. All so moved, minutes approved

Introductions

1. For this meeting, the committee went around the table and introduced themselves as there were 2 new committee members in attendance, Randy Tharp and Shane Scherer

Managers, Monthly Operational Update Report

1. See attachments
2. Team updates- Carrie Anderson went over Veteran Services Strategic Plan to give the committee an idea of where Veteran Services is, in regards to goals for the year.

Old Business

1. Carrie wanted to open up a discussion again in regards to our Soldiers & Sailors Relief Grant and Cold War Veterans. Fred Chambers opened the table to discussion. Carrie relayed that there is a consistent amount under spent in the SSR budget. Shane Scherer voiced his desire to add Cold War Veterans to be eligible for Soldiers and Sailors Relief Grant. Fred Chambers moved to make Cold War Veterans eligible for Soldiers and Sailors Relief Grant. Mary John seconded. All so moved. The policy will be reviewed half way through the year.

New Business

1. Carrie brought up to change the Soldier and Sailors Relief Grant to include auto repairs again. There have been many requests for it. Mary John moved to include auto repairs to the Soldiers and Sailors Relief Grant once again. Randy Tharp seconded. All so moved.
2. Another request to change to the Soldiers and Sailors Relief Grant in regards to Utilities and Rent, is the requirement to include the lease of the apartment, in order to make an informed decision. Mary Johnson moved to approve this addition. Fred Chambers seconded. All so moved.

Around the Table

Adjournment

1. The meeting was adjourned by Fred Chambers at 9:13, and the next meeting will be on Thursday, February 1st at 8:30 AM

“Kent County . . . where diversity and inclusion matter”