



City of Green Meeting Minutes Veterans Advisory Commission

December 3, 2024 / 5:30 pm / CAB

I. Call to Order

Chair Tim Freeman called to order the regular meeting of the Veterans Advisory Commission at 5:30 p.m. on December 3, 2024.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

Present: Tim Freeman, Carl Mickelson, and Jarrod Suffecool

Also Present: Mike Elkins, Administration Liaison
Justin Speight, City Council Liaison
Johanna Gooding – Division Secretary

Public Comments: Kim Kovesci, Executive Director of the MAPS Air Museum

IV. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the November 5, 2024 meeting were approved.

V. Citizen Comments

a) **Guest Presentation: Collaboration with the Commission, Support Systems, and Materials Provided.** Kim Kovesci presented on collaboration with the Commission, support systems, materials provided to veterans, and what SAM (Serving Area Military) does. Highlights included:

- i) **Working Together:** Discussed potential collaboration with the commission to support veterans through programs and resources available at MAPS.
- ii) **Support Systems:** Emphasized the importance of leveraging existing veteran support systems rather than duplicating efforts.
- iii) **Materials and Resources:** Provided materials from local veteran organizations and the VA to enhance resource awareness.

VI. Unfinished Business

- a) **Mission Statement Discussion:** The proposed mission statement for the commission was reviewed:

- i) Focus on advising the Mayor and fostering respect for veterans.
- ii) Objectives include outreach, community engagement, and effective communication.
- iii) Emphasis on connecting veterans to resources and promoting awareness of their contributions.
- iv) Motion to approve the mission statement by Carl Mickelson and seconded by Tim Freeman, and unanimously approved after the following changes:

(PURPOSE)

- 1. To serve as an advisor to the Mayor, fostering an environment of respect and appreciation for past and current members of the United States Armed Forces.
- 2. Provide a conduit to past and current members of the United States Armed Forces and their families to access resources that may benefit them.

(MISSION)

Dedicated to serving and empowering those who have served our nation by advocating for their needs, connecting them with essential resources, and fostering a community of respect and support.

(VISION)

Through collaboration with veterans, their families, and community stakeholders, we aim to enhance the quality of life for all veterans, honor their sacrifices, and ensure they receive the recognition, opportunities, and care they deserve.

- b) **WWII Memorial Walkway Marketing Plan and Fund-raising Ideas**

- i) Discussion on fundraising options for constructing a walkway at the Veterans Memorial Park, to include selling engraved brick pavers and partnering with local businesses.
- ii) Proposal to leverage community support for private donations. Suggest to the city a generic marketing plan to support projects of interest of the commission.
- iii) Motion to table discussion to next meeting was approved.

VII. New Business

- a) **VAC News Corner in the City of Green Publication.** Approval of two-to-three-hundred-word publication for the Veteran's Advisory Commission insert for the next City of Green Publication, around March of 2025.
- b) **Ability to Post Veterans Resources on Our Website.** Provide a QR Code on the Our Town Newsletter to include the links provided in the November 5, 2024 minutes, due to limited amount of space in the publication.
- c) **Discuss the Draft Vet Survey.** Valerie Wolford, Director of Communications, has previously conducted city-wide online surveys and could incorporate some of the ideas into a survey targeting veterans and their families. An open-house event could also be an additional benefit to draw the public into meetings.

VIII. Other Business

- a) **Veterans Honor Walk Collaboration.** Proposal to partner with the Green High School Booster Club on the Veterans Honor Walk, part of the Great Day Race Series. Discussion ensued on fund allocation and community involvement. Tabled for further discussion at the next meeting.
- b) **Budget and Funding.** Brief review of the (parks) proposed budget for 2025, including allocations for Veterans Memorial Park projects.
- c) **Resource Links.** Red Cross does have a system for getting emergency messages to service members.

IX. Adjournment

Tim Freeman adjourned the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

APPROVED:

Tim Freeman, Chair

Date

ATTEST:

Johanna Gooding, Secretary

Date