

**VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
Bergenfield Public Library
September 23, 2023
10:30 AM
MINUTES**

1. Meeting Called to Order at 10:30 AM.

2. Chairman's Statement

Committee Chairman Warren Williams called the meeting to order by reading the Open Public Meeting Act and the notice requirements have been satisfied. Meeting dates are confirmed at the Annual Meeting. Notices of this committee's meeting are here by posted on two municipal public notice bulletin boards, published on the websites for the Borough of Bergenfield and the Veterans Advisory Committee and on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk.

3. Roll Call

Roll Call	Present	Absent
Yvonne Aponte, Member		X
Edgar Garcia, Member	X	
Thomas Lang, Vice Chairman	X	
Marc Pascual, Council Liaison	X	
Richard Morf, Member	X	
Dina Moore, Member		X
Willie Moree Jr, Member		X
Dr. Samuel Paul, Chaplin	X	
Fred Sahlberg, Member	X	
Wilfred Selby, Member	X	
Joseph Sokol, Member		X
Jose Vasquez, Secretary	X	
Benjamin Whaley, Member	X	
Amos White, Member	X	
Warren Williams, Chairman	X	

4. Flag Salute

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Warren Williams

5. Invocation

Invocation was given by the Committee Chaplin Dr. Samuel Paul

6. Agenda Changes

No Agenda Additions or Deletions

7. Approval of Minutes (August 2023)

Motion Offered by Fredrick Sahlberg and **Second** by Thomas Lang to approve minutes for August 12, 2023, Regular Committee Meeting minutes, which were already published on the website for the Veterans Advisory Committee. The justification for the publish of August 12th committee minutes, since the committee had no meeting for the July 2023, which the Committee Chairman acted in the best interest of the committee in keeping the websites up to date. All present voting in favor and none oppose.

8. Treasury Report (September 2023)

The current balance of funds available is \$1,886.63. The committee has donated \$200 to the VFW Post and Auxiliary back August 12, 2023, for the purchase of tent (10ft x 20ft) for outdoor events. There are no other expenses of billing transactions during this reporting period of August 12, 2023 to September 23, 2023. **Motion Offered** by Fredrick Sahlberg and **Second** by Richard Morf to approve the committee's treasury report for the period of August 12, 2023 through September 23, 2023. All present voting in favor and none oppose.

9. Presentation

No Presentation at this moment

10. Correspondence

No Correspondence at this moment

11. Unfinished Business

No Unfinished Business at this moment

12. New Business

A. Veterans Day Ceremony

Committee Chairman Warren Williams has informed the committee members the updated information pertaining the Veterans Day Ceremony. The Veterans Day Ceremony will be held on Saturday, November 11, 2023, at 11:00AM, in front of the Bergenfield Municipal Building. Chairman Warren Williams, also informed members of the VFW Post and the DAV Chapter to start preparation for this ceremony.

B. Holiday Dinner (Thanksgiving/Christmas)

Committee Chaplin Dr. Samuel Paul offer an idea to have a Thanksgiving or Christmas Dinner for the purpose of having veterans and their family and veterans without family to serve a free holiday meal. Chairman Warren Williams thinks this is very good idea. Chaplin Samuel Paul and Chairman Warren Williams will meet with church members who wants to host this dinner and will update the committee at the next committee meeting in October.

13. Public Comment— Please be advised there will be a limit of three (5) minutes per speaker and each speaker and each may speak only once.

No One for Public Comment

14. Good of the Order

- a. VFW District-2 Annual Picnic (September 30, 2023, 12PM-4PM, Rochelle NJ)
- b. DAV Rock-Tober-Fest (October 15, 2023, Tommy Fox's Public House, Bergenfield NJ)
- c. NJ VFW Eastern Conference (October 20 – 22 October, 2023, Atlantic City NJ)
- d. Bergenfield VFW Auxiliary Bus Trip (October 28, 2023, Atlantic City Casino)

15. Committee Comments (Members Only)

- The committee meeting location was changed from the VFW Post to the public library cause the committee was not sure if there was adequate space to conduct business, since the post has both halls being used for rentals.
- The committee will be able to conduct future meetings at the new borough hall when the building officially opens.
- World War-2 Veteran Passed (Edward Kaufman) 97 Years Old and VFW Post-6467 Life Member, Date of Death- September 13, 2023, VFW Post Commander assist the family by getting a Memorial Flag from Department of Defense, Washington DC.
- Thanksgiving/Christmas idea to have a holiday dinner for Veterans Family and Veterans from the Paramus Veterans Home. Plans are being worked on.
- County/State Military Service Medal Award Ceremony. When can we present the awards. Need to pick a date. The Committee would like to plan for the Awards Ceremony for the year 2024. Need to follow-up with NJDMAVA on the process to get the awards ceremony scheduled.
- Borough Park with Veterans Signs: Need status of repairs/replace signs (Parks Report from April 2023). Need to do a re-assessment of the park signs and prioritize what signs need immediate repairs.
- Veterans Monuments in front of Borough Hall needs to be cleaned/polish Bronze Plaque. Where will the monument be relocated in front of the new Borough Hall. There should not be bushes in front of the monuments. So, the public will be able to read veterans' names.
- Veterans Memorial Park Bronze Plaque: Needs to clean/polish and upgrade granite stone base to upright base (Off Ground Level)
- New Borough Hall Flag Poles: What is the number of flag poles and to ensure that flag poles are in the correction position and height of each one. Especially the flagpole for the US Flag. All the flag poles must meet the requirement in accordance with United State Flag Code Manual for the proper flagpole height and flag size.
- Grants: Can the Borough Grant Writer assist VFW in getting grants for building repairs/upgrades.
- The committee needs to start working on the plans for 2024 Memorial Day Ceremony, Parade and Grand Marshall.
- First Responders Awards: this year VFW National Public Servant Awards will have five career areas are Law Enforcement, Firefighter, Emergency Medical Technician, 911 Dispatcher and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (E.O.D.). The nomination application is now available and must be submitted on or before January 1, 2024. This information will be handed out at the next Major & Council Meeting on October 3, 2023.

16. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Veterans Advisory Committee, **Motion Offered** by Wilfred Selby **Second** by Fredrick Sahlberg to adjourn the meeting at 12:01 PM. All in favor Yes. The next schedule committee meeting will be on October 14, 2023, time 10:30 AM at the location of Bergenfield Public Library.

Respectfully Submitted

Jose Vasquez
Committee Secretary

