

CLAYTON COUNTY VETERANS' ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

3:00 pm Thursday, February 16, 2017

Commissioner's Board Room

112 Smith Street Jonesboro, GA 30236

Members Present: Chairman Clarence Burnough, Vice-Chairman Paul Winfrey, Kenneth Gilmore, Wilbert Jordan

Members Absent: Diane Hanna and Evan Black

Others Present: Ryan Shaw, Human Resources

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:08 p.m. Each member present announced their names.

II. Old Business:

- a. Chairman Burnough addressed the fact that there was no meeting last month due to a lack of a quorum.
- b. The recommendation from the Veterans' Board to remove Mr. Evan Black and Ms. Dianne Hanna from the Board due to lack of attendance was addressed by Chairman Burnough.
- c. Chairman Burnough spoke of his recommendations of two other potential members: Arthur Hughes and Michael Sewd.

III. New Business:

- a. Chairman Burnough spoke on a previously discussed plan to go to each recreational center and how they missed the first date. He then asked the Board if they would like to go forward with this plan.
- b. Mr. Jordon spoke on the dates of when they were going to visit the various recreational centers.
- c. Mr. Gilmore stated that he could attend one of the meetings. He did not feel that they need to go to four recreational centers and made

the recommendation that the Board just go to one recreational center.

- d. Vice-Chairman Winfrey stated that they needed to compile a list of what they can offer and start getting points of contact to whom they can direct veterans.
- e. Mr. Jordan agreed with the need for a referral list. Mr. Gilmore agreed as well and expressed how they could make a list based on their personal experiences.
- f. Chairman Burnough stated that they did not need a motion on this matter.
- g. Mr. Jordan expressed a need to have one central place. Chairman Burnough stated there was no one central place.
- h. Mr. Jordan began to speak of the different demographics of Clayton County and how their framework of looking at things may be different.
- i. Chairman Burnough stated that they are still veterans and how they still know what they need based on their experiences.
- j. Mr. Jordan proposed they develop five issues affecting Clayton County veterans. He spoke on how some veterans deal with mental health issues and how the Board could possibly help. Chairman Burnough was in agreeance.
- k. The Board continued their discussion of devising a list of services for veterans.
- l. Chairman Burnough stated that he would like to meet at least one time with individuals.
- m. The Board spoke on various locations to place flyers.
- n. Vice-Chairman Winfrey spoke about expanding out of Clayton County.
- o. Chairman Burnough stated that Clayton County has roughly 23,000 veterans that they are supposed to service.
- p. Vice-Chairman Winfrey spoke about how there will be a great deal of references who will only want to deal with you if someone tells them that you did a good job. Mr. Jordan agreed.

- q. Chairman Burnough spoke on an incident at a grocery store and how he was willing to help a veteran.
- r. Chairman Burnough continued to speak about how Kroger has a program to help veterans by hiring them.
- s. Vice-Chairman spoke on an incident where he tried to help a veteran.
- t. The Board had a conversation on various institutions that help veterans.
- u. Vice-Chairman Winfrey revisited the conversation about creating a list of resources that they could help provide to veterans in Clayton County.
- v. Chairman Burnough stated that they should make a list of eight (8) services that could help veterans.
- w. The Board spoke briefly about programs that will help veterans who get into legal trouble. Conversations with Sheriff Victor Hill and Judge Wanda Dallas were referenced.
- x. Chairman Burnough stated that they should make the list and that they meet on March 9th. The Board commenced to create a list of services they can help the veterans of Clayton County.
 - i. Veterans' Court/ Re-entry Program – Recommended by Mr. Jordan and Mr. Gilmore
 - ii. Job Help – Recommended by Mr. Gilmore
 - iii. Veterans' Claims Help – Recommended by Mr. Gilmore
 - iv. Housing Assistance – Recommended by Mr. Gilmore
 - v. Transportation to appointments – Recommended by Mr. Gilmore
 - vi. Help for Veterans with Mental Illness/Addiction – Recommended by Mr. Gilmore
 - vii. Getting along with Families for Post-Combat Soldiers – Recommended by Mr. Jordan
- y. Mr. Jordan spoke of a veterans' center that is for combat veterans in College Park.
- z. The Board began a conversation about various programs available for veterans.

- aa. Mr. Jordan spoke of a children's home for veterans.
- bb. Vice-Chairman Winfrey spoke about the availability of family programs.
- cc. Chairman Burnough spoke of his experience going to Vietnam and stated how the new guys are deployed for five to six months, come home and then are go back.
- dd. Mr. Gilmore stated the need for an information center where veterans can go to get information. This center will help identify agencies that are really there to help.
- ee. Mr. Wilmore mentioned the need for assistance for female veterans.
- ff. Mr. Jordan spoke about a person named Debra Jones as a resource for female veterans.
- gg. Mr. Jordan spoke of his experience with a female veteran.
- hh. Vice-Chairman Winfrey spoke about how he would have a female social worker speak with female veterans who have experienced trauma. He stated that they need to speak with hospitals to see if they have a woman's group.
- ii. Mr. Jordan spoke of legal issues that could arise. He spoke on the need of professional and legal personnel.
- jj. The Board continued to speak about what is needed and what is already available for veterans.
- kk. Chairman Burnough wanted to narrow down their list to at least eight things veterans need. The list consisted of:
 - i. Job assistance
 - ii. How to initiate claims
 - iii. Housing
 - iv. Transportation
 - v. Mental Health
 - vi. Veterans' court/Re-entry program
 - vii. Information Center – An actual building
 - viii. Family support group
 - ix. Female support group

- II. The Board continued to converse about the need to know what services are available.
- IV. **Election of Secretary**
- a. Mr. Jordan volunteered to be the Secretary for the Board
 - b. Motion made by Mr. Gilmore to accept Mr. Jordan as the Secretary for the Board, second by Vice-Chairman Winfrey. No discussion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

V. Adjournment

Chairman Burnough stated that the next meeting will be on March 21st at three o'clock in the afternoon. Meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m.