

SUMMARY MINUTES

**Veteran's Advisory Board Meeting
SEPTEMBER 17, 2020 – 5:30 P.M.
VIRTUAL MEETING**

A. CALL TO ORDER BY: Thaddeus Hamilton, Chair

B. ROLL CALL The following were found to be present:

Thaddeus Hamilton
Stanley Leibowitz
Angel Serrano
Ana Barbosa
Kenton Isackson
Norman Rothfeld
Loretta Young
Robert Passarelli
Kenton Isackson

Daniel Travis – Unexcused Absence
Stanley Bostic – Excused Absence
Gloria Drago – Unexcused Absence

Emilie Smith, Assistant City Manager
Amanda Tomlinson – Division Director – Special &
Community Support (City of
Sunrise employee)

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

D. ADOPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA TECHNOLOGY RULES

Motion was made and carried to approve the Communications Media Technology Rules.

E. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 20, 2020 SUMMARY MINUTES

Thaddeus asked for a motion to approve the February 20, 2020 minutes, it was second, and the board approved.

F. OPEN PUBLIC DISCUSSION

None - No member of the public was present

Thaddeus wanted to know how the public would be notified of the meetings; Emilie explained that the information is posted on the City's website, providing all the vital information for the public to attend the meeting.

G. OLD BUSINESS

Emilie reminded the board of the Sunshine Laws.

G. NEW BUSINESS

Thaddeus wants to add to the Agenda, the impact of the virus on Veterans in the City. He states that on September 19th there would be a virtual fundraiser for the UNCF (United Negro College Fund) for which he is the chair of the South Florida Leadership Council; he would like to share the information with the members to determine willingness and ability to participate.

Kenton Isackson – informed that the *Nam Knights* is currently looking for one Veteran and one Sunrise Police Officer that is in need, in order for the foundation to provide a monetary donation in December. He said that the group is taking names for the donation. Further, last year a Lauderhill Veteran and Police Officer were recipients of the donation. He has been speaking with Deputy Chief Visners to see if there is an officer in need that would benefit from the donation. He was also asking for recommendations for a veteran, if there was one.

Thaddeus inquired as to what, if anything, the City was doing to aid Veterans. Emilie informed the Board that the City's *Compassion Center* provides all the necessary resources for the residents, up to and including the Veterans. There are multiple resources being advanced for the benefit of residents and veterans in need. The City has a partnership with *Feeding South Florida* who delivers food to the Tennis Center. That food is then distributed on a weekly basis, and for those homebound, food is delivered to them. There is also a grocery delivery program where residents are being assisted with food. The City has partnered with the *Weston Rotary Club* and for the past eight weeks, families are given vouchers to local Sunrise restaurants. The restaurants, in turn, delivers a hot meal to the family. She knows for a fact that there was a Sunrise Veteran that benefited from this program. Religious institutions have also offered food, and residents with the biggest needs are then contacted to provide them the resources. For those within the community facing needs, the *Food Pantry* is also another valuable source. Last month, the Commission set aside three million dollars to give back to Sunrise residents affected by job loss or decrease in income because of the virus. As long as the person meets the requirements, they are considered for eligibility to receive assistance with water/wastewater billing. The City is hoping to get additional

funding from the federal government.

Robert Passarelli said that the Legion immediately posts whatever information they receive on their website. He extends appreciation for Kevin Pickard's utilization of programs assisting residents.

Loretta asserts that Emilie and Amanda have been doing a great job in providing much needed assistance.

Thaddeus wants to know if the City can get masks that they would then provide to the Veterans. Robert and Emilie advised that there are medical facilities willing to provide extra masks.

H. ANNUAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2020

Thaddeus said that there are goals and objectives bylaws outlining the Boards duties and responsibilities.

I. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2020

Thaddeus asked that the *Nob Hill Salutes America* item be moved to the next agenda; reviewed the *VAB Duties and Responsibilities*, and asked if there were any concerns or comments. There were none.

J. VETERANS DAY DISCUSSION - VIDEO

Emilie told board members that a video would be available to honor the Veterans Day event. Kenton wanted to know if the City still wanted the helicopter flying in as before. Angel stated that he would check his file to see what information he has relating to the helicopter. Thaddeus inquired if there would be a VAB presentation. Amanda explained that she has contacted a lot of the regular individuals that would have made it to the regular event, and she is open to suggestions for the upcoming video. She wanted to know if there were any videos from the past that she could integrate into the upcoming Veterans Day Video. She asked Thaddeus or any representative from the Board that would like to participate in the video recording to contact her. Emilie informed the members that an outside company would be videoing the event for the program, and Veterans should attend the video recording session dressed as they would for the normal event pre-coronavirus. Kenton and Amanda spoke about the motorcycle riders, and that they would ensure that the riders would adhere to CDC guidelines. Amanda instructed that whatever external videos the board members have, they should forward it to either her or Emilie. Emilie explained that the new addition to the City Manager's Office is Assistant City Manager, Sean F. Dinneen who the board will meet eventually.

K. BOARD MEMBERS DISCUSSION

Emilie updated the Board in regards to *Veterans Park*. The project is moving along as the pandemic did not really slow it down. The park is about 80% completed. The playground is completed; the labyrinth is progressing, and everything is looking very good. Ana wanted to know about the ground-breaking/ribbon-cutting ceremony. She wanted to know what would be done to recognize the completion of the Park, and what the Park meant to the City. Emilie said that a grand-opening video can be done in order to celebrate the park and what it represents.

L. NEXT BOARD MEETING: TBD

Thaddeus wanted to know if the next board meeting would move forward as normal, wherein Emilie stated that the meeting can be virtual, but the City would have to wait for the Governor to decide. October 15th is a tentative date. Thaddeus is celebrating his birthday this month, 70 year-young; with the Board members wishing him a happy birthday when it arrives. Loretta Young encouraged everyone to get their flu shot.

K. ADJOURNMENT

Thaddeus Hamilton made a motion to adjourn, it was second, and there were no opposition from the board.

Transcribed by: Karen Lawrence, Board Secretary/ *Karen Lawrence*

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he/she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. F.S.S. 286.0105.