

Garner Veterans Advisory Committee Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
White Deer Park  
December 17, 2018 - 9:00 am

- A) Call meeting to order: 0905 by Secretary Bob Carter
- a. Attending: Charles Scott, Richard Ripley, Rob Smith, Bob Carter, Spence Cardwell, Willis McCoy, Katie Lockhart
  - b. Public: Tim Stevens, Helen Carter
  - c. Absent: Jeff Hicks, Don Searles, Terry Chatfield, Keith Darlington
  - d. Excused: Ronnie Williams
  - e. Minutes from September 10, 2018 meeting - unanimously approved
- B) Report from Standing Committees
- a. Observances:
    - Veterans Day 2018 - Sunday Nov 11, 2018 - Reported by Katie (Outdoor Education and Parks Manager)
      - GHS Wind Ensemble was well received
      - Invocation: Travis Tobin from First Baptist
      - Emcee - Town Manager- Rodney Dickerson
      - VFW provided 350-450 flags, VFW and Legion personnel gave them
      - Tours before and after program - slow day, only 1 tour given
      - Mini concert at 2:00, and passing out the flags by VFW & AL
    - Gold Star Families Event (Dec 8, 2018) - Tim Stevens
      - Rained, but this was not about the visitors, but those remembered
      - Wreaths and tree were in place - Thanks to Garner Optimists
    - Independence Day 2019 - park reserved for July 3
      - Made request for Aversboro Baptist in 2019 but already booked.
      - Reported by Katie (Outdoor Education and Parks Manager)
    - Memorial Day 2019 - park reserved
    - Veterans Day 2019 -
      - Made request for church in 2019 but already booked by youth group.
  - b. Maintenance of Memorial (Charles, Rob)
    - Sales of bricks ongoing - They had about 28 new bricks installed this year
  - c. "Duty" - original play about Garner's involvement in Vietnam war
    - March 8-9- at Garner Performing Arts Center
- C) Report from Local Veterans Organizations
- a. VFW, Aux - Bob Carter.
    - We will participate in Vets Day parade in Raleigh
    - Did one participation with Transitions Life
    - End of month is Gold Star Family day
    - Will be in Garner Christmas Parade also using vehicle from Army Reserve Center
  - b. AL, SAL, Riders, Aux - Don.
    - AL doing "Shoebox for Vets" starting up - They apply to Town of Garner for a fiscal grant each January which funds this program. Other groups can do this also.
    - SAL is holding a raffle for guns

- D) Old Business:
- a. Gold Star family memorial - Tim Stevens:  
Gold Star plaque will be placed at the Veterans Memorial, explaining what a Gold Star tree is. This is important enough to include in the Tour Guide. Richard Ripley will write it up and if approved, Tim will include it. Discussed Blue Star families, but that would take away from the Gold Stars.
  - b. Vietnam Veterans Traveling Wall - Tim Stevens  
The Vets Council would vote to support or not support this, and then the Town Council would make the decision. Some facts are:
    - a. Can't request the date until later in the year, but looking at Armed Forces Day (May 16, 2020). Comes in Tues or Wed to set up, opens next day, leaves on Sunday.
    - b. It would cost \$10-\$20K. Tim would do the fund raising from local businesses.
    - c. Veterans groups in Garner will support.
    - d. There are 3 different sizes of the Wall, and we are discussing the  $\frac{3}{4}$  size, (193' long) which comes with the platform and a museum. This includes a place for members of the local community to display.
    - e. Mayor and town officials are enthusiastic about having it.
    - f. We would provide 24 hr/day security, which the Police Chief said can be worked out.
    - g. Also veteran guides present 24 hr/day to answer questions and talk with other vets.
  - c. Discussion of flag on display along the walkway to the memorial on Memorial Day. 66 flags, for the 66 names on the wall. And possibly getting dog tags made with the 66 names and their branch of service, and put them with each flag to see who that flag is dedicated to. Tim Stevens said he could get the dog tags. They could also be flow at other sites at other times.
- E) New Business:
- a. Tim Stevens has been writing plays for Garner. He has done them on WW II, Civil War, the next one is call "Duty" about Garner's 8 men killed in Vietnam. It will be performed March 8 and 9. Other shows can be seen at Show and Tell Ministries on UTube

Close at 10:00 <sup>AM</sup> and will meet again in March.