

Garner Veterans Advisory Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
White Deer Park
September, 10, 2018 9:00 ^{am}

- A) Call meeting to order: 0905
- a. Attending: Jeff Hicks, Charles Scott, Richard Ripley, Rob Smith, Bob Carter, Don Searles, Spence Cardwell, Willis McCoy, Katie Spencer
 - b. Public: Helen Carter
 - c. Absent: Terry Chatfield, Keith Darlington, Tim Stevens
 - d. Excused: Ronnie Williams
 - e. Minutes from June 11, 2018 meeting (which did not include the attendance from that meeting) - unanimously approved
- B) Report from Standing Committees
- a. Observances (Terry, Bob, Katie)
 - Memorial Day May 28, 2018, 1330 hrs.’
 - Rain forced the move to the pavilion
 - Spence Cardwell and Charles Phillips gave tours
 - 30 people, 4 tours
 - Speaker, Wesley Bauguess was outstanding
 - Independence Day Jul 3, 2018 - about 15K - 16K attended
 - Tours 1630-1800 but not as many as previous year
 - Jesse Mendoza, Don Searles and wife, Jeff Hicks, Bob Carter and wife, Terry Chatfield. But there were less than in past years.
 - Veterans Day Nov 11, 2018
 - Tours in park from 10:30-1130 AM & 3:00-3:30
 - Need signage at church and park to remind them of the time
 - ARBC reserved for noon - 5 pm by Charles Scott
 - Time at 1500 due to a Sunday date
 - GHS Wind Ensemble coming again
 - Invocation: Mayor will ask Travis Tobin from First Baptist
 - Emcee locked in - Town Manager- Rodney Dickerson
 - Need to lock in guest speaker
 - Using Police and Fire Honor Guard again
 - Will need about 350-450 flags for attendees
 - Tours before (1000-1300 hrs.’) and after program
 - Aversboro Elem School Melissa Sykes will have students sing song or two
 - No confirm from NC Dept of Vets Affairs yet
 - Taps
 - Mini concert at 2:00, and passing out the flags by VFW & AL
 - Gold Star Families Event (Date TBD)
 - Tim Stevens has info, but was not there
 - b. Tours at Veterans Memorial (Spence, Katie)
 - They were slow this summer
 - c. Maintenance of Memorial (Charles, Rob)
 - Sales and installation of Bricks
 - Sales was cut off on July 31 but orders still coming in. Will try to have all bricks installed by Veterans Day
 - They had 26 this year, but got orders for 2 8x8’s today and will try to accommodate those as well

- 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
 - Upcoming events: POW/MIA service on Sept 21 7:00 PM at VFW Post
 - 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. Proposal made to create Gold Star family memorial in Garner at the Veterans Memorial. This will be an explanatory plaque at the Memorial. Tabled until chairman attends.
 - b. Bylaws change - article VII, Sec A. Proposed change to limit officers (Chrm, Vice Chrm, Sec) to 3 consecutive years to a single position. This would be the recommendation to the Town Council, who would have to make the change. Charles Scott asked what is the town limit? And how will the two terms work together? No decision, shelved.
- E) New Business:
- a. Tim Stevens was supposed to be here today to discuss bringing the Vietnam Veterans Traveling Wall to Garner in 2 years. The Vets Council would vote to support or not support this, and then the Town Council would make the decision. Some facts are:
 - It would cost \$10-\$20K, and Tim said he would do the fund raising.
 - There are 3 different sizes of the Wall, and they bring the various displays with them. We can get any of the three sizes.
 - We would provide 24 hr/day of a veteran present to answer questions talk with other vets.
 - We are not sure of the rules for security on the wall, but Tim knows.
 - The Garner Vets Memorial would be a good place to display it.
 - We would have to also handle parking.
 - Wake Forest is having it Oct 11-14 if you want to find out more, such as the logistical support needed, how much space does it take, etc.
 - The Legion, VFW and DAV all support this.
 - Know that we don't get any funding from the program, since we are just an Advisory Committee. But veterans' groups can raise funds.
 - The Town may incur costs of Police and Public Works.
 - b. Spence Cardwell brought up having a town event similar to July 4 to honor veterans. The event would have to come from one of the Veterans organization, including funding. There would have to be a committee organized to propose a plan, and the funding needed. Note that the July 4 celebration costs about \$100K each year.

Close at 9:44 and will meet again in November.