

Garner Veterans Advisory Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
White Deer Park
September 9, 2019 - 9:00 ^{AM}

- A) Call meeting to order: 0903 by Don Searles
- o Members:
 - Jeff Hicks, Charles Scott, Spence Cardwell, Don Searles, Matt Padone
 - Absent: Richard Ripley
 - o Ex-officio Members:
 - Terry Chatfield (AL), Willis McCoy (DAV)
 - Absent: Bob Carter (VFW)
 - o Town Staff: Rob Smith, Katie Lockhart
 - o Town Liaison: Ronnie Williams (excused)
 - o Public: Tim Stevens

Minutes from June 10, 2019 meeting - Don Searls made a motion to accept as mailed, 2nd by Jeff Hicks, motion carried.

- B) Matt Padone was introduced to the group. He is an Army veteran of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. He said he appreciates being a member in a town that appreciates veterans as we do. He replaces Keith Darlington on the Committee.

- C) Report from Standing Committees
Observances:

- a) Veterans Day 2019 - Monday Nov 11, 2019, at 11:00 ^{AM} - Katie covered
 - We will be at Aversboro Baptist again.
 - 10:30 ^{AM} for mini-concert, with 11:00 ^{AM} start of program
 - Still confirming speakers.
 - Programs will be ready the day before, and the VFW and Legion will hand them out with an American flag to people as the people come in.
 - Tours of the monument before and after the program at the church.
- b) Salute to the Troops - May 2020 - Tim Stevens
 - Will focus on the Korean War
 - Garner had 1 soldier killed at the Chosin Reservoir
- c) Memorial Day 2020 - Katie
 - American Legion will pay for the wreath this year
 - Will have stand-by EMTs on hand in case they are needed
 - Will have handicapped accessible
 - We can investigate the wind causing noise in the microphones
- d) Veterans Day 2020 - too early
- e) Gold Star Families Event (Dec, 2019) - Tim reported
 - Will have the gold star tree again, with a star for each service member lost
 - Will have a wreath for each branch of the service
 - Might be tied in with Wreaths Across America, which is Dec 14
 - Have a bag-piper play as stars are put onto the tree
 - Tours after the service
- b. Maintenance of Memorial - Charles and Katie
 - Have 25 orders for new bricks. Names submitted in July to insure they are installed in time

- C) Unfinished business:

- a. Memorial Plaque at Veterans Memorial to honor the 18 members of the military from Garner killed during the wars, but not in conflict (for ex: military plane crashes). The plaque would have all of the names. He will come back with a proposal of size, price, etc. at the next meeting. And the town would need to decide on the funding. Motion passed.

b. Moving Wall -

- The proposal was sent in by Show and Tell so we didn't have to wait for all approvals. We can cancel if the town is not supporting it. We are waiting to hear back. The town has received a list of what is needed from them to do this so they can make an informed vote.
- Requested the $\frac{3}{4}$ size one.
- The wall would arrive on a Tuesday with a parade. Most of Wednesday would be spent putting it up. 20 people needed for 6-8 hours for setup. Charles Manning organization has offered to help with this.
- Training of volunteers done on Wednesday afternoon, by the staff that comes with the wall.
- The display must be manned 24 hours a day. Will need 8 volunteers during the day time hours, and 4 during the night time.
- Once it is opened, it stays opened 24x7.
- Items left at the wall will be shipped to the museum in DC.
- We don't know if our bid will be approved since it has been in NC last year. We should find out in November.
- It costs \$11K to bring it here which Tim is working on, and then we have staffing responsibilities (about 120 people total).
- Jeff Hicks made a motion that our funds for the Veterans memorial not be used for the wall expenses. Seconded by Willis McCoy. Motion carried.

D) New business:

- a. Katie passed out some new name badges for when you are representing the town in an official capacity.

E) Reports of Vets Organizations:

a. VFW, Aux - Bob Carter

- Bob was absent, but Helen discussed the Hometown Heroes program, and gave some information that she discovered researching them. It included examples of signs from a small town in NY, how and where they have been mounted, and costs of the signs, how the program works, etc. Details would have been worked out on management, installation, advertising, effect on brick sales, public works, etc. Jeff made a motion to pursue investigating the logistics of such a program, seconded by . Motion passed.
- VFW and Legion has a visit with some patients from the VA, and the Sept 24 visit will be held in Garner at the park. They will arrive via 2 buses at noon, and eat at the large picnic area at 12:30. Many of them will be in wheelchairs, and there will be enough VA staff with them to assist them. The VFW and Legion will furnish the food. Helen also noted that the tables there only allow for wheelchairs at the ends, not along the sides.

b. AL, SAL, Riders, Aux - Terry Chatfield

- Terry let everyone know about the eligibility rules changing as defined in a Bill signed into law on June 30. Changes to go into effect.
- Vets Day Parade will be on Nov 9 in Raleigh. Go to website if you are interested in participating.

Close at 10:10 ^{AM} and will meet again on Dec 9.