

Minutes

Wednesday, July 13, 2022



PRESENT: **Matthew Blackwelder**, District 1 Rep; **Jeff King**, Local Business Owner/Operator; **Wilson Parran**, American Legion Post 220 Rep; **Michael Richardson**, American Legion Post 274 Rep; **Michael Sweeney**, District 2 Rep; **Michael Wood**, District 3 Rep; **Melanie Woodson**, BOCC Rep.

VIA TEAMS: **Patricia McCoy**, American Legion Post 206 Rep.; **Dr. Brandon Temple**, Educator/Educational Admin Rep.

EXCUSED: **Robert Sprecher**, American Legion Post 85 Rep; **Christian Zimmermann**, College of Southern Maryland (CSM) Rep.

GUESTS: **Anthony Newman**, Greenwell Foundation.

CCG Liaison: **Lorraine Joyner**, CCG Liaison, **Lisa Tolomei**, Community Resources Specialist.

Michael Wood called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

I. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Determination of a Quorum: We have a quorum.

B. Approval of Agenda: **Sweeney** motioned, **Parran** seconded to approve the July agenda as submitted, all in favor.

C. Approval of June meeting minutes: **Richardson** motioned, **Blackwelder** seconded to approve June meeting minutes as submitted, all in favor.

D. Strategic Goals/Tactical Activities

a. Membership

- Updated member info sheet was emailed to group on June 21, 2022.
- Vacancy: Still need representation from University of MD, Director of Stateside Military Operations of U of MD Global Campus. Woodie will continue his efforts to connect with them.
- CCG Liaison advised that Section 2.E of the Commission's founding Resolution provides: *"Upon motion passed by majority vote, the Commission may choose to include additional ex officio, non-voting members."*

Members discussed possible candidates:

- Bill Miller, Hospice Chaplain
- Marty Caraway, a colleague that works for the Veterans Affairs Appeals Board, lives in Calvert, a, former VSO
- George Owings, particularly if he retires. At a minimum, extend a standing invitation to him to attend CCVAC meetings.

b. Representation at regional veterans groups

- State level Joint County Veteran Commission in-person meeting, August 16, 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. **Brandon Temple** will serve as CCVAC's rep for this group.
 - Veterans Regional Advisory Committee (VRAC). **Matt Blackwelder** will represent CCVAC on this committee.
 - Joint Maryland Serving Together Collaborative – Julie Bryson from Charles County said there were technical difficulties and she was unable to get into the June 21st virtual meeting. CCG Liaison will follow up.
- c. Veterans Resource Guide
- Each attending member took one box of the Promotional business cards for the Veterans Resource Guide and will distribute them to businesses and organizations frequented by local Veterans.
- d. Veterans FAQ
- Finalize what was included in June meeting minutes, post on web site.
- e. Annual Report to BOCC – August 23, 2022
- Wood and King will present.
 - Reviewed Power Point, developed and prioritized five goals:
 - Increase our understanding of the demographics of Calvert's Veteran population;
 - Continue to increase public awareness of CCVAC;
 - Participate in regional/state-level Veterans efforts;
 - Study feasibility of providing services locally; and
 - Develop FY24 budget request.
 - **Parran** suggested including additional slide to address SB901.
- f. Legislative Issue – SB901 – Disabled Veterans and Senior Property Tax Credit
- The law that went into effect on June 30th allows veterans that are below 100% disabled or over 65 years of age a maximum tax credit of 20%. Calvert needs a plan to implement. Hopefully the plan includes backdating it to when the law went into effect.
 - The onus is on the county to decide how to implement. The county has discretion about the percentage. They could opt to grant something less than 20%.
 - Parran noted that because it impacts County revenue, it may require a public hearing.
 - Discussed the VAC's role in advocating for and implementing this locally.
 - Brandon will follow with Mark Willis.

g. Outreach Opportunities

- Veterans Regional Resource Fair – Saturday, September 10, 2022 (10 am to 4 pm), Melwood Recreation Center, 9035 Ironside Road, Nanjemoy, MD 20662. Deferred discussion until August meeting.
- Calvert County Fair, September 28 – October 2
 - \$300 to reserve space outside; \$350 for inside. CCG Liaison will contact Fair Board president to ask Fair Board to waive rental fee.
- Do we need to limit our activities to only Calvert County events?
- Pat—4 Calvert American Legion posts. It was noted that 4 VAC members are members of Am Legion Post 206. Pat suggested visiting each Am Legion post to promote CCVAC. Question was asked, “Isn’t that the rationale for having representation from each post on the CCVAC?” But it was also noted that this might be a worthwhile activity. Consider getting schedule for each posts board meetings and explore possibility of more direct outreach to the individual posts? Richardson noted that his post’s board meetings coincide with the VAC meetings.
- First Friday at North Beach –Blackwelder will scout the August 5th event to explore that possibility.

h. Information Sharing

- CCG Staff Liaison shared Charles County VAC – Subcommittee Structure/Rules of Procedure. Charles meets bi-monthly with subcommittee meetings in the off months. Members agreed this structure might have merit but would be more feasible if the group brings in additional Ex-Officio members.
- Richardson met a person who is starting an LLC, a program to work with veterans to on job search skills. Would like to present to the group. Woodie suggested inviting her to the September meeting.

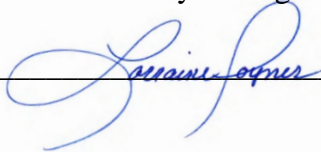
ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

The next meeting is Wednesday, August 10, 2022.

Adopted on the 10th day of August 2022 – minutes transcribed by Lorraine Joyner

Signed _____



Date: August 10, 2022.