

# Minutes

## Wednesday, February 8, 2023



**PRESENT:** **Matthew Blackwelder**, District 1; **Nicole DeRamus**, UMGC; **Jeff King**, Local Business Owner/Operator; **Patricia McCoy**, American Legion Post 206; **Robert Sprecher**, American Legion Post 85; **Michael Sweeney**, District 2; **Dr. Brandon Temple**, Educator/Educational Admin Rep.

**VIA TEAMS:** **Meg Faller**, Calvert Library (logged off at 5:35 p.m.).

**ABSENT/EXCUSED:** **Michael Richardson**, American Legion Post 274; **Michael Wood**, District 3; **Melanie Woodson**, BOCC; **Christian Zimmermann**, College of SoMD (CSM).

**GUESTS:** **Kristen Byrley**, UMGC; **JC Hooker**, Citizen, via TEAMS.

**CCG STAFF:** **Lorraine Joyner**, CCG Liaison.

**Dr. Brandon Temple** called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

### 1. REGULAR BUSINESS

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

**B. Approval of Agenda:** **McCoy** motioned, **Sweeney** seconded to approve the February 2023 agenda as submitted, all in favor.

**C. Approval of January 2023 meeting minutes:** **Sweeney** motioned, **McCoy** seconded to approve January 2023 meeting minutes as submitted, all in favor.

### 2. PRESENTATIONS

**A. February 2023 Presentation - University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC)**

- a. Presentation provided in hard copy form, attached and incorporated with these minutes. Emailed full-page slides to all VAC members.
- b. Add to Veterans Resource Guide:
  - Workshop Wednesday
  - Annual virtual career fair in March
- c. Pillars of Strength Scholarship application is open—deadline to apply April 30, 2023. Nicole to provide video link. See if CMR will help promote.

### 3. STRATEGIC PLANNING/TACTICAL ACTIVITIES

**A. Membership**

**a. Subcommittee Workgroup –**

- **Sweeney** motioned, **King** seconded to approve the most recent version of the letter with one correction, all in favor.
- Email list of potential organizations for distribution to all members for feedback.

- b. Group discussed John Gray's application.

**Sweeney** motioned, **Sprecher** seconded to recommend BOCC appoint John Gray to replace Wilson Parran as American Legion Post 220 rep.

**B. Regional Collaborations:**

- a. Four County Initiative (**Temple**) –
- Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m.
- b. Joint County Veterans Commission (**CCG Staff Liaison**)
- CCG Staff Liaison attended the Thursday, January 26, 2023 meeting and participated in one of four workgroups focused on:
    - *“ways our rural communities can reach and engage with veterans and families who may not be aware of or feel the have access to VA benefits and programs.”*
  - Focus of other three workgroups were:
    - *“Ways our government (state and local), businesses, and community organizations can reach more veterans and families by implementing and standardizing military connectedness screening questions and referral into intake practices.”*
    - *“Ways our government (state and local) can reach more veterans and families by establishing or expanding upon agency/department veteran liaison programs.”*
    - *“Foundational principles to implement a statewide coalition for providers of services to service members, veterans, and families.”*
  - Dana Burl will be using the feedback from these workgroups to inform her strategic planning process.
  - **Temple** noted that the state is busy transitioning to a new governor and Secretary of Veterans Affairs so reporting from that meeting will probably be delayed.
- c. Veterans Regional Advisory Committee (**Blackwelder**)
- Next virtual meeting, Monday, March 6th, from 9:00 to 10:30

**C. Veterans/Military Events/Observances**

- a. **CCG Liaison** has reserved time on the April 4 BOCC agenda for Month of the Military Child and Gold Star Spouses observances.
- b. **CCG Liaison** provided draft Proclamation for Month of the Military Child and will develop one for Gold Star Spouses Day.
- c. **McCoy** and **King** both know Gold Star spouses. Temple will reach out to his network to try to recruit additional participants.
- d. A packed house will help demonstrate support for future Veterans' initiatives.

#### 4. **OLD BUSINESS**

##### **A. Veterans Tax Credit (Temple)**

- a. No response from Sharon Strand. **Temple** is not locked into the April 4<sup>th</sup> date for the Public Hearing but feels we should do everything possible to prepare.
- b. **CCG Liaison** advised that Workday implementation is currently consuming a lot of staff time and focus. Workday software will be used for HR, payroll, and finance tasks and is scheduled to launch on March 27<sup>th</sup>.
- c. **Temple** responded to one email question about Veterans Tax Credits, specifically a question regarding the \$100,000 maximum allowable income. He still needs to reach out to the couple who had a question about progress toward getting tax credits for veterans with less than a 100% disability rating.

##### **B. FY24 Budget Request**

- a. BOCC will announce their recommended budget in April, hold a Public Hearing in May, and the final budget is adopted in June.

##### **C. Calvert Library Benefits Workshop – (Faller)**

- a. Because state staff is quite busy navigating Maryland leadership transition the Benefits Workshop has been rescheduled for April 11<sup>th</sup>.

##### **D. Strategic Objectives**

- a. **Women’s Veterans Outreach Plan Update/Discussion**
  - One of the groups Strategic objectives is to outreach to Women’s Veterans.
  - Roslyn Jones, MD Dept of Veterans Affairs Women Veterans/Inclusion Program Manager, will present at the March 8 meeting.
  - On March 18 there will be a Southern Maryland Region Women Veterans Committee Dinner from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Southern Maryland Region Youth Camp, 9201 Surratts, Road, Cheltenham, MD 20623. This is a fundraising event.
  - On June 10 there will be a Women Veterans Recognition Day from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Prince George’s Community College.
  - Ask CMR about targeted outreach to women or a social media campaign to promote these events.

#### 5. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Economic Development is hosting a Federal & State Contracting Workshop for women, minority and Veteran-owned businesses at the Library on Tuesday, February 28 from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. – Mike Richardson is interested in attending. Members were encouraged to help promote the event.

- B. **Sweeney** suggested we create a Certificate of Appreciation for businesses who provide exception service to veterans. Initial candidates include:
- a. Bulrushes Café – Tuesday Free breakfast for Veterans
  - b. S.J. Johnson Propane – sponsors Bulrushes breakfasts
  - c. Calvert County Public Transportation
  - d. Skills Barber Shop

CCG Liaison will ask CMR to design an editable certificate and check on any possible legal ramifications.

## 6. **INFORMATION SHARING**

- A. Sweeney participated in walk-through of PF Armory—they plan to build a large veterans monument using stones that are part of the existing fireplace.
- B. Kristin Byerly shared the following information: UMGC offers WorkShop Wednesdays ([umgc.edu/workshop](http://umgc.edu/workshop)) on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the Month starting at 11:30 a.m. There current schedule is as follows:
- 02/15 iCallidus IT Solutions and Program Management Company
  - 03/01 Diane Wilson VA Counselor speaking on education benefits
  - 03/15 Veterans Curation Program – discussing internship opportunities
  - 04/05 American Corporate Partners (ACP) – Mentoring program
  - 04/19 Information about the UMGC Military and Veteran Appreciation Fair
  - 05/03 UMGC Accessibility Services available
  - 05/17 Navy Federal Credit Union
  - 06/07 Serving Together
  - 06/21 Blue Star Families
- C. POC for the data from Purdue University Military Family Research Institute:
- Website: [www.measuringcommunities.org](http://www.measuringcommunities.org)
  - POC: Katie (Schmitz) Walter, [schmit59@purdue.edu](mailto:schmit59@purdue.edu)

## 7. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

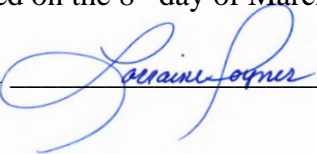
- A. None

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

The next meeting is Wednesday, March 8, 2023.

Adopted on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of March 8, 2023 – minutes transcribed by Lorraine Joyner

Signed  \_\_\_\_\_

Date: March 8, 2023.