

# Minutes

## Wednesday, May 11, 2022



**PRESENT:** **Matthew Blackwelder**, District 1 Rep; **Jeff King**, Local Business Owner/Operator; **Robert Sprecher**, American Legion Post 85 Rep; **Michael Sweeney**, District 2 Rep; **Michael Wood**, District 3 Rep. **Melanie Woodson**, BOCC Rep.

**VIA TEAMS:** **Patricia McCoy**, American Legion Post 206 Rep.; **Wilson Parran**, American Legion Post 220 Rep; **Dr. Brandon Temple**, Educator/Educational Admin Rep.

**EXCUSED:** **Michael Richardson**, American Legion Post 274 Rep.

**GUESTS:** **William Miller**, Calvert Hospice Chaplain.

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

Michael Wood called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

### **I. REGULAR BUSINESS**

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

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

**C. Approval of April meeting minutes:** **Sprecher** motioned, **Parran** seconded to approve April meeting minutes as submitted, all in favor.

### **D. Strategic Goals/Tactical Activities**

a. Membership --Reappointment of Jeff King and Michael Richardson is on the May 17<sup>th</sup> BOCC agenda. There were no other applications.

b. Branded Items

- Tent, backdrop, table throw are in—need to move them into storage.
- Polo Shirts – Some are in, others fabric cannot be found
- Name Tags – Still working to finalize order with BJ's Promotions.

c. Veterans Survey

- Discussed survey results callouts:
  - Access to VSOs
  - Transportation to out-of-area medical services
  - 48 Respondents looking for unspecified medical help
- Questions related specifically to transportation concerns:
  - How many veterans are using county public transportation?
  - Does Calvert County Public Transportation get requests for transportation to

Baltimore or Annapolis or for veteran transportation assistance in general?

- Do we have any stats on use of the Charlotte Hall Route??
  - Have veteran discounts ever been considered? Per website, currently offer discounts to: 1) Seniors 60 and over; 2) Valid Medicare card holders; 3) Disabled with valid CCPT Disability Card.
  - Is it possible to obtain veteran specific data from Public Transportation?
  - VAC needs to be cautious about becoming an annoying “Survey Monster” that asks a lot of questions without producing deliverables.
  - Ask for veterans discounts. It’s an actionable item that will result in data collection. Would like an answer by June? Is a 2-week turnaround possible so it can be announced at Memorial Day event? Wilson suggested testimony at May 17<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m. Budget Hearing (at Harriet E. Brown Community Center) in favor of veterans discounts. Testimony could be given on behalf of Veterans Affairs Commission. Woodie might not be able to attend because his son is due at any time. Looking for a back-up. Brandon clarified that there is still a virtual option.
  - Next Steps? Identify priorities. Woodie asked members to scour the survey for one or two priorities, items that we could realistically impact, items that you would want as your legacy. Looking for short and longer-term goals.
  - Draft FAQ – Refer to specific pages of Veterans Resource Guide. Jeff volunteered to produce a first draft.
- d. Veterans Resource Directory – Have been promised a draft by Memorial Day. Need 10-15 printed copies and a post card with information to access it electronically.
- e. Outreach Opportunities/Veterans Calendar
- Memorial Day Ceremony is on May 30<sup>th</sup>.  
American Legion Post 206 Event begins at 9:30 a.m.;  
Courthouse event starts at 1:30, Jeff King is guest speaker.
  - May 28<sup>th</sup> Opening ceremonies for Stars & Stripes Festival, Brandon is Guest Speaker. No tent. Tent will be used for Fun Day at Kellam’s Field.
  - Reach out to four NJROTC units and Civil Air Patrol commanders to ask for help with set up. Cadets usually arrive an hour early so this shouldn’t be a problem.

## **E. Information Sharing**

- a. Mike Wood emailed a brochure to VAC members, a sample from Virginia – his contact Crea Jacobson wants to establish special docket for alternative consequences to jail for veterans on misdemeanors. (Drug court, mental health treatment, etc.) May want to consider inviting Crea to present to the group.
- b. Jeff King attended the Tuesday morning breakfast at Bulrushes – Wendy would like to do a food basket occasionally for Charlotte Hall, William Miller – has a point of contact for Charlotte Hall. Hopefully not still impacted by COVID. Pat will ask the commander of American Legion Post at Charlotte Hall.

- Maybe care packages, not food, maybe that would work better.
- Pat advised the Charlotte Hall Website features a “Resident Wish List” that details acceptable items for donation (see attached).

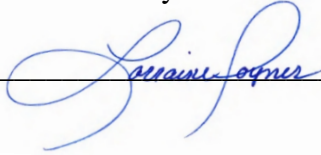
**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 605 p.m. sweney

The next meeting is Wednesday, June 8, 2022.

Adopted on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of June 2022 – minutes transcribed by Lorraine Joyner

Signed \_\_\_\_\_



Date: June 8, 2022.