

MINUTES FOR THE HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSION FOR VETERANS AND
MILITARY FAMILIES

THURSDAY, April 2, 2015; 7:00 PM- 8:30 PM

Government Office Building, Gateway Drive, Columbia, Maryland

IN ATTENDANCE: Howard T. Mooney, Antonio da Rosa, Edward R. Hebert III, Lisa Terry, Wanda Riddle, John J. McNiff, Jonathan K. Branch, Andrew Kraus and Larry Killen (AL Guest)

VISITORS: Robert Gillette, Mike Laurente, Robert Lowell, Carol Bohn, Mike Thurnes, and William Cochran

OLD BUSINESS:

- ◆ Mr William Cochran made a presentation on Veterans Memorials. He showed slides of other Veterans Memorials and discussed planning considerations. A summary of his points: Need a clarity of vision and intention; need public participation in planning, controversial issues often arise, prioritize design quality, need visitors and need to capture imagination – this produces the energy and public enthusiasm, need to raise funds for construction and future maintenance, establish durability criteria, and must be sustainable.
- ◆ Consideration of March 2015 Meeting Minutes – Minutes approved.
- ◆ Future meeting dates for Commission: May 7; May 19 (Commission Forum); June 4; and Summer Break for July and August.
- ◆ Report from the Veterans Forum Subcommittee by Wanda: Will be held May 19th at the Miller Branch Library. Will have 25 to 30 tables for vendors, JROTC Color Guard, with kick off at 5:45 by Councilman Greg Fox.
- ◆ Report on Flag Presentation to Howard County Library Board: Flags were presented to the Library Board on March 18th.
- ◆ Report on Meeting with Councilman Greg Fox; Howard Mooney had an hour and a half meeting to discuss Commission activities with Mr Fox. He used the hip-pocket brief as the backbone for the update. Much of the discussion was on the Memorial, the upcoming Forum, our web page, vacant Commission vacancies, interaction with County agencies and Service Groups and staffing support (Veterans Service Officer).
- ◆ Trifold and Hip Pocket Brief finalization: Howard Mooney will do final touch ups and will distribute. It includes a seven page slide show.

NEW BUSINESS

- ◆ Discussed future calendar/meeting agenda items.
- ◆ Discussed letters to Chamber of Commerce on Veterans Discounts and Veterans parking spaces.
- ◆ Recommend visiting the Worchester County Veterans Memorial web site.
- ◆ House Bill 482 contains proposals on State Income Tax exemptions for Military pensions.