

MINUTES FOR THE HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSION FOR VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES
THURSDAY, March 12, 2015; 7:00 PM- 8:10 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 and Ed Hall (AL Guest)

VISITORS: Mike Laurente, Robert Moore, Robert Lowell, Joseph Chambers, Janice Agazio and Philip Lord

INVITED Speakers:

- Neighbor Ride Slide Presentation by Mr Brad Closs. Neighbor Ride enhances the health and quality of life for Howard County's seniors by providing affordable volunteer- based supplemental transportation.
- Jon Dansicker briefed the Maryland Mobile Vet Centers. They are designed specifically to treat veterans and their families for trauma-related difficulties. They are community based counseling centers that provide a broad range of services to assist in readjustment to civilian life.

OLD BUSINESS

- Consideration of February 2015 Meeting Minutes – Minutes approved.
- Future meeting dates for the Commission: April 2; May 7; May 19 (Commission Forum), and June 4.
- Report from the Monument Subcommittee by Wanda. Meetings delayed by the weather/snow. Next item is to map out process to establish the monument.
- Report from the Veterans Forum Subcommittee by Wanda. Will be held May 19th at the Miller Branch Library. Working on speakers and signing up 25 vendors.
- Committee is reviewing resumes of Commission applicants. County Council makes decision on new members.
- The Annual Commission Report has been submitted.
- American Flags will be presented to Library Officials at the Central Library on March 18th
- Hip Pocket brief has been reformatted and has speaker notes.

NEW BUSINESS

- Recommended that members visit the web site of the Worcester County Veterans Memorial (at Ocean Pines, MD). It has a lot of good information
- Discussed a full time Veterans Affairs Officer for the Commission. Grant funding for the current position is annual.
- There was discussion on the Commission and individuals writing a letter in support for a Bill in the Maryland House that would exempt Military Pensions from State Income Tax.