

**Garner Veterans Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes - Monday - March 13, 2023**

White Deer Park Nature Center

Attendees:

- Committee Mbrs:
 - Matt Pedone (Chair) - absent
 - John Foster (V. Chair)
 - Helen Carter (Secy)
 - Jeff Hicks (alternate Ex-officio)
 - Duane Tabb
- Ex-officio Members:
 - VFW - Bob Carter
 - AL - Terry Chatfield, Don Searles
 - DAV - Robert Gregory (absent), Willis McKoy
- Town Representative - Phil Matthews (Town Council member)
- Town Staff:
 - Megan Young (Operations Superintendent)
 - Kayla Bender (Events Coordinator) - absent
 - Colleen Bockhahn (Outdoor Education and Parks Manager)
- Maintenance of the Memorial: Katie Lockhart - absent
- Visitors: none

Meeting opening: The meeting opened at 9:00 ^{AM}. In the absence of Chairman Pedone, the meeting was chaired by Vice Chair John Foster

A) Minutes of last meeting: Motion by Terry Chatfield to approve the minutes of the Dec meeting, seconded by Bob Carter. Motion passed.

B) Report from Committees:

a. Observances:

- **Memorial Day** - May 29, 2023 – Kayla reported
 - Mayor welcomes people
 - MC – Phil Matthews
 - Keynote Speaker – looking at Tim Stevens (Jeff will ask him)
 - Can get the town color-guard for posting colors? If not, scouts, reserve unit
 - Request Port-a-potties, EMS on standby
 - Purple heart city sign is up at the park entrance and will be installed around town.
- **Independence Day** - July 3, 2023
 - Tours at the Memorial from 1700-1930 - VFW and Legion mbrs
 - Town to provide tent, chairs, water for workers
 - VFW & Legion members need passes to get on to Jeff's street for parking
- **Salute to the Troops** – Tim Stevens (not there)
- **Veterans Day** - Nov 11, 2023 - Kayla
 - Need a keynote speaker
 - Let the town know what you will need.
- **Gold Star Families' Wreath laying** – Tim Stevens
 - Scheduled for Dec 16 at 1000 hours.

b. **Changes/Maintenance of Memorial** - Katie

- The benches are paid for by Willis McKoy, Tim Stevens, VFW, and Legion.

They are all ready to install. Have to finalize the plaques on each bench.

c. Sales and installation of bricks – Order deadline is July 31, 2023

- Update the book with new names. Katie will send email asking for updates prior to July 31. And the Tour Guide need to be updated along with the brick finder.
- The word that the 8”x8” bricks are no longer available is wrong. We have 10 of them in stock and there is space at the memorial to install them

d. Flag raising ceremony – off the table for now. Wake Forest is starting again next month and Creedmoor is starting theirs in May.

C) Reports from Local Veterans Organizations

- VFW and Aux – Bob and Helen Carter
 - Fri (March 17) we are going to Lawndale as Leprechauns to visit the residents
 - We are starting to get repeats of people coming to use in need of assistance. We explain that we will help once, but it is not an ongoing thing.
- AL and SAL – Terry Chatfield and SAL
 - We go with the VFW to the 5 assisted living facilities in Garner every other month and the VA in Durham on the other months.
 - The VA is starting to lift their covid restrictions now. They have Bingo in their recreational/dining room and we visit them there. We bring treats and prize money.
 - SAL is having a BBQ fund raiser on April 21 at the VFW starting at noon. They are also having a raffle for a Pit Boss Grill - \$5 per ticket or 5 for \$20.
- DAV – Willis reported
 - They also assist veterans with claims, but only once a year
 - If you know of a veteran who is going into foreclosure or losing their residence, they help with that too. They will catch your payment up one time only. Things like light bills, they will catch you up one time per year.
 - If you know of anyone who lost or damaged a roof in a storm. He has contacts that will assist with that as well.
 - Willis also noted that the State DVA has been told that they need to spend their money, so make use of it if needed.
- Jeff mentioned that the Home Depot will provide the supplies for building a ramp, and the VFW and Legion members can assist with the install. So, if you know a veteran who needs one, let us know.

D) Old Business:

- Robert Gregory is leaving and Rosemary is already gone. Duane Tabb and Michael Chasey have not been attending meetings. But the town said that they are not replacing anyone right now. Phil Matthews said that Stella has two new applicants in mind, but they are not yet approved, and she will let us know. Don has to be added to the webpage.

E) New Business:

- None

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05. Next meeting on June 12, 2023 at 9:00 ^{AM}.