

**Garner Veterans Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes - Monday - June 12, 2023**

Garner Performing Arts Center

Attendees:

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

Meeting opening: The meeting opened at 9:04 ^{AM} by Chairman Matt Pedone

- A) Minutes of last meeting: Two corrections were noted, Colleen's last name was corrected and Don Searles was present. Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes as corrected of the March meeting. Motion approved.
- B) Report from Committees:
- a. Observances:
 - Memorial Day - May 29, 2023 – Kayla reported
 - Great event in spite of the rain, best one ever
 - Over 200 people attended
 - Young singer was excellent.
 - Independence Day - July 3, 2023
 - Tours at the Memorial from 1730-1930 – by VFW and Legion mbrs
 - Town to provide tent, chairs, water for workers
 - VFW & Legion members were given passes to get on to Jeff's street for parking
 - Salute to the Troops – Tim Stevens (not there)
 - Veterans Day at Aversboro Baptist - Nov 12, 2023 – Kayla
 - Vets will give out programs and flags at the door again
 - Need a keynote speaker – Robert Gregory suggested one. Jeff noted that they need to be approved by the committee prior to booking. Robert said he would check with him first to see if he was even available on that day and they send the name to Kayla and Matt for approval.
 - Gold Star Family wreath laying – Tim Stevens
 - Scheduled for Dec 16 at 10 ^{AM}.
 - b. Changes/Maintenance of Memorial - Colleen

- The benches are all installed, but only one has a plaque so far. Awaiting the installation of the plaques on the other benches. Colleen will send out the criteria for the plaques.
- c. Sales and installation of bricks – Order deadline is July 31, 2023 – Colleen
 - Lots of bricks of all sizes available.
 - Update the book with new names. The Tour Guide needs to be updated along with the brick finder.
 - We have not been told of any price change in the brick sales. Staff will compile an analysis of the brick sales.
- d. Monthly Flag raising ceremony is off the table for now. Wake Forest has started again and Creedmoor is also doing one.

C) Reports from Local Veterans Organizations

- VFW and Aux – Bob and Helen Carter
 - After our meeting on this Wednesday (June 14) we are shutting down for a few weeks while the building is remodeled. The owner supports veterans and is paying the entire cost (over \$70k). And he will not raise the rent afterward. We should recognize him in a formal way. Note that the building is also used by the American Legion Riders and the Sons of the Legion every month.
- AL and SAL –
 - They have resumed their POW/MIA ceremonies.
- DAV – Robert Gregory
 - They are getting calls from vets who need rides to the VA in Durham. The DAV vans don't pick them up at their homes, only at designated locations. So, they have no way to get there. They cannot afford cabs, and other options don't go all the way to Durham. Individual people have offered to take them, but they are not covered by insurance for that. Once we have the new VA Clinic in Garner they can get there, but they need a solution in the meantime. Willis offered an option and Robert thought it would be a good solution.

D) Old Business:

- Changes to the Committee: Robert Gregory is obviously not leaving and Rosemary is already gone.
- We now have enough people on the Veterans Committee.

E) New Business:

- Nominations were made for officers for the new year. They will remain opened until the election is held at the Sept meeting:
 - Chairman – John Foster
 - Vice Chairman – Matt Pedone
 - Secretary – Helen Carter
- New organization reps for the new year will be:
 - AL – Terry Chatfield and Barry Nichlow
 - VFW – Bob and Helen Carter
 - DAV – not known yet
- It was noted that Spence Cardwell has now moved in with his daughter.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:03. Next meeting will be in September, but the 2nd Monday is 9/11, so it was decided to move it to Tuesday, Sept 12 at 9:00 ^{AM}.

Submitted by Helen Carter, Secretary