



DUBLIN VETERANS COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 15, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

3:30 - 5:00 PM

1. Call to Order/ Pledge of Allegiance

Jeff Noble called the September 15th, 2022 meeting of the Veteran's Committee to Order at 3:30 pm on September 15th, 2022, at Dublin City Hall (5555 Perimeter Drive).

2. Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Jeff Noble (Chair), Bonnie Garmy (Vice-Chair), Mike Kehoe, Sean Clifton, Tim Hansley, Charles Krumholtz, Mack Parkhill

Committee Members Absent: Jan Rozanski, Roger Ansel, John Reiner

City Staff Present: Emily Goliver, Dana McDaniel, Lori Gischel, Carrie Ritzler, Leah Dotson, Tammy Lehnert

3. Review of Minutes

Mr. Noble proposed a motion to approve the July 21st, 2022 meeting minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Library QR Code

Mike Kehoe explained the situation with the Dublin Library and the Grounds of Remembrance QR code. Although the sign with the QR code is placed in library during specific celebrations, Mr. Kehoe feels the Committee needs to revisit this practice in order for the QR code to be put up in the library permanently. Mr. Kehoe said that he wants the City to be the point person to help take care of this. Mr. Krumholtz expressed his support for this initiative as well.

Questions/Comments

Emily Goliver explained that she has been in discussion with Kirby Dearth on this matter and that she plans to reengage with the library in October, before Veterans Day. Ms. Goliver noted the creation of a new sign with a new QR code, as the old sign contained the same QR code in both the library and grounds of remembrance. This will better illustrate how many residents and visitors interact with the signs at both locations.

Dana McDaniel said that to achieve this goal individuals involved will have to continuously nudge the library. Mr. McDaniel recommended that City Staff and the Committee continue to remind the library as keeping this idea fresh with keep it on the Committee and library's agendas. Mr. McDaniel emphasized that there are individuals out there that recognize the work the City and the Committee are doing regarding the Grounds of Remembrance and the cemetery.

Mr. Noble explained that Leadership Dublin is also working on this issue. Mr. Nobel also reminded the Committee that Capital University Professor Josh Matthews wishes to incorporate the Grounds of Remembrance and the continuation of cemetery research in a



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project for his students. Mr. Noble expressed that there is a need to find another resource to continue this research.

5. Hero Hut

Sean Clifton presented an overview of the Hero Hut at the Dublin Irish Festival. Stressing that the tent had a good turnout for its first time at the festival, Mr. Clifton recounted that there were over 300 attendees, 10+ volunteers, and 8+ non-profits present. Mr. Clifton played a video clip from the Friday 11 p.m. segment on 10TV News highlighting the Hero Hut and offering real time marketing for the Dublin Veterans Committee and local veterans. Mr. Clifton also mentioned that many of visitors from Saturday and Sunday stated that they found out about the Hero Hut from the 10TV News segment.

For next year, Mr. Clifton gave a list of things to sustain within the Hero Hut. However, Mr. Clifton also recommends improving on marketing, increasing signage, obtaining a projector, handing out Dublin Veterans Committee pamphlets/business cards to educate visitors and promote the Committee, including additional power outlets, acquiring more fans, and making hand wipes and sanitizer available.

Questions/Comments

Carrie Ritzler stated that the Festival went well and that the Events team was happy to be a part of helping the Hero Hut come into fruition. Ms. Ritzler stressed need to work on communication throughout the Festival, especially in regards to volunteer shifts. Ms. Ritzler commented that the Dublin Veterans Committee members were helpful and thanked them for their support at the tent. Ms. Ritzler also commented on the successful number of non-profits and how she witnessed the tent becoming crowded at times due to the great turnout.

Mr. Noble discussed tent layout changes and requested additional signage and more room on the registration sheet. Mr. Noble noted that the tent ran low on snacks on Saturday and that there was a lack of visitors before noon on Sunday.

Tim Hansley mentioned an event similar to Hero Hut at the Memorial Golf tournament, stressing that Hero Hut may want to reach out to and partner with whoever planned that event. Mr. McDaniel stated that he had the same thought and believed that this would be a great place to make a connection with Hero Hut. Mr. McDaniel recommended inviting Dan Sullivan to a Committee meeting to talk about what the Memorial Tournament does, specifically for veterans.

Mack Parkhill introduced the idea that the Hero Hut could be an opportunity to record the visiting veterans' history, developing a library of veterans' stories. Mr. McDaniel mentioned that the National Veterans' Memorial Museum is trying to do something similar and that the



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stories collected could feed into that database. Mr. Noble stressed that the Dublin Irish Festival may not be a good place for recording, but would still be a good place to capture those who would be interested in doing something of this nature.

Bonnie Gamary suggested that the use of a slide show would be great for next year, as it can illustrate what the Committee does for veterans and connect the Grounds of Remembrance and its QR code to the community. Additionally, Ms. Gamary mentioned that many individuals brought their children and recommended adding activities for them so that their parents will feel free to look around the tent longer.

Mr. Clifton requested to keep the Hero Hut as an idea for next year and stated that he hopes to expand this program further at the next Festival and potentially other Dublin events.

6. Military Roundtable Recording

Mr. Noble explained that this agenda item was proposed by Mr. Kehoe. Currently, there are Military Roundtable Recordings 9 months out of the year. Mr. Kehoe want to make this event institutional by putting link to the recordings the Dublin Veteran's Committee webpage. Mr. Noble stressed that the individual that currently records this event would continue to provide this service and would provide the recording to the City, however, he is not always available.

Mr. Kehoe emphasized that it would be helpful for the City to publicize these events before they happen as they are tied to what the Committee does. Mr. Kehoe suggested providing a link of these recordings on the City's YouTube and/or on the City website.

Mr. Noble stated that the main concern is that this event falls on the senior center and it is currently only promoted in the senior newsletter. Mr. Noble recommended putting the information for these events on the Dublin Recreation Center community board.

Mr. Kehoe stressed that linking these events back to this committee would be helpful and believes they would be of interest to many in the Dublin community.

Questions/Comments

Ms. Goliver stated that the City can get this info added to Dublin News Now and add the recording on the Dublin Veterans website. The City just needs the files of these recordings to get this process started. The City can also work on getting these recordings uploaded to YouTube as well.

Ms. Gamary mentioned that these recordings should also be passed out to the Dublin City schools and highlights the importance of Dublin veterans talking to Dublin students.

7. Veterans Day Ceremony



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Mr. Noble stated that the speaker for this year's Veterans Day Ceremony is Colonel Mike Kelvington. Colonel Kelvington is the PMS at the Ohio State Univeristy and his wife, Meg Kelvington, was one of the speakers at the City of Dublin's Memorial Day event.

Mr. Noble informed the Committee that a band and speaker have been acquired for this event. However, the Committee is still looking for soloist, but they have someone to audition for this position.

Questions/Comments

Lori Gischel shared that at the October 24th City Council Meeting, the City is recognizing Veterans Week with a proclamations. Ms. Gischel also adds that the City's website has also been updated with all of the necessary information and that the City is sending out post cards to local veterans and community members the last week of October.

8. Veterans Tax Break

Mr. Parkhill explained that at the last committee meeting, one of the ideas introduced as a way to identify and benefit veterans was some sort of tax reduction. After researching real estate tax in Dublin, Mr. Parkhill revealed that he found that roughly 2.4% of residents' real estate tax goes to the City of Dublin. Mr. Parkhill suggested giving veterans either a tax break or avoidance on city real estate tax and is unsure how many veterans this benefit would apply to. However, Mr. Parkhill believes this endeavor could be worthwhile for the Committee to promote to City Council.

Questions/Comments

Ms. Goliver introduced Tammy Lehnert, tax manager at the City of Dublin, to answer any questions regarding taxation. Ms. Lehnert explained that Dublin's local tax does not deal with real estate taxes, but that she can answer any questions about local income tax.

Buck Bramlish, with the Franklin County Veterans Services Commission, emphasized that the idea of a veterans tax break is about creating means to identify veterans and their dependents in the Dublin community. Mr. Bramlish explained that he has conducted research on tax breaks in Ohio and other states. He found that Ohio State Senator Frank Hoagland sponsored a bill proposing a change to the Homestead Tax Exemption, granting this to all veterans. Mr. Bramlish also shared that COTA has agreed to a 50% discount for veterans on COTA fairs. Overall, Mr. Bramlish highlighted the impact something like a tax break would have on the veteran community, not just in Dublin, but in Central Ohio as a whole.



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Mr. Bramlish asked the Committee if there is currently some kind of welcome packet for new residents or current veteran residents and what would make this approach veteran centric.

Ms. Lehnert commented that any active duty military pay is nontaxable and that the City also does not charge income tax on military spouses permanently living in the area. The City does not tax retirement pay for veterans or non-veterans. Ms. Lehnert also explained that the City does send out welcome packets every month with tax and other information, but she is unsure if there is anything related to veterans in those packets.

Mr. Hansley stressed that many veterans may still be working in the Dublin community. Mr. Hansley explained that proposing a change to property tax involves the county and the state, but that providing a credit on income tax can be achieved locally by ordinance. Additionally, Mr. Hansley suggested granting veterans pool passes or recreation center passes as these are also controlled by Dublin City Council.

Mr. Noble recommended creating a list of what is available in Dublin, Franklin County, and the State of Ohio now that directly benefits veterans. Mr. Noble explained that these current resources would be nice to publicize at events like Hero Hut and the Memorial Tournament.

Mr. McDaniel emphasized that having these conversations and helping the local veteran community is why this committee was established. Mr. McDaniel highlighted the importance of raising up resources that are currently available to veterans and stressed the significance veterans services offices play in these resources.

Mr. Noble asked if Mr. Parkhill would be willing to form a small group to bring this list into fruition. Mr. Parkhill stated he would be pleased to create this group with the help of others on the Committee and Buck.

9. Upcoming Military/Veteran Appreciation Events

Ms. Gamary recounted the events of Dublin Scioto's Military Appreciation Night on September 2nd and shared that she is now a community member for the purple star for Dublin Scioto. Ms. Gamary stressed that the more students are educated about and around veterans the more they understand what it means to be veteran and serve your community. The September 2nd event helped serve as an opportunity for this with at least 35 veterans and their families speaking to Dublin students and community members.

Ms. Gamary also shared that the Dublin City Schools Veteran's Story event is taking place on November 10th. This event honors Dublin veterans and helps students learn more about veterans and the history surrounding the events in their life. Ms. Gamary also informed the Committee that Dublin City Schools is looking at establishing a "Field of Honor," much like the Westerville school system has in place. This project would include sponsored flags with signs detailing specific individuals' names, to which Ms. Gamary said she would send a QR code message to the Committee if any member would like to sponsor one of these flags.



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Ms. Gamary informed the Committee of a community fundraiser that occurred at the Golf Club of Dublin put on by the Ohio Military Hall of Fame, stressing the importance of getting information like this to the veterans in the Dublin community.

Ms. Gamary also discussed Dublin City School's Military Options Night happening on November 14th and invites committee members to attend. The event includes a guest speaker, an overview of different ways to serve, breakouts with veterans, service-specific panels, and ASVAB sign ups.

10. Other/New Business

Mr. Noble proposed a motion for Mr. McDaniel to be named an ex-officio member of the Dublin Veterans Advisory Committee. Ms. Gamary seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. McDaniel stated that he appreciates this gesture. He clarified the Council sets the membership but will consider himself an honorary member. He will attend meetings occasionally when he can and help however he can. The next stage of his life will be volunteering.

Mack Parkhill asked if the Council Member Reiner would be able to move this through City Council to make Mr. McDaniel a permanent member of the Committee. Mr. Noble responded that he believes they could do that.

Mr. Clifton emphasized the significance an email distribution list could have on the work of this Committee. Mr. Clifton that goal is to have quick outreach and that the Committee could achieve this through utilizing something of this sort.

Ms. Goliver shared that OSU's John Glenn College of Public Affairs requested that the City distribute fliers to the Committee about their Certificate in Public and Nonprofit Leadership for Veterans. Ms. Goliver stated that she will also send information about this via email.

Mr. Noble recommended that once the Committee has created their list of benefits, this could be an appropriate time to introduce the new City Manager to the Committee.

11. Adjourn

NEXT MEETING: November 17th from 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Leah Dotson, City Management Intern