



Veterans Committee

Thursday, January 18, 2024 – 3:30 p.m.

1. Call to order/Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Noble called the January 18th, 2024 meeting of the Dublin Veterans Committee to order at 3:33 P.M. in person.

2. Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Jeff Noble (Chair), Mike Kehoe, Sean Clifton, Mack Parkhill, Steven Dickman, Roger Ansel, Bonnie Gamary and Tim Hansley.

Committee Members Absent: John Reiner and Jan Rozanski

City Staff Present: Kendel Blake, Carrie Ritzler, Jim Loch

Guests Present: Tracy Owens (Resident), Buck Bramlish (Executive Director of the Franklin County Veterans Service Commission)

3. Review and approval of November 16, 2023 Minutes

Mr. Kehoe motioned to approve the November 16th, 2023 minutes, with a second from Ms. Gamary, the motion was unanimously approved.

4. Veteran Appreciation Card Update/External Outreach

Ms. Blake shared a presentation highlighting the current state of the program and the Committee's idea of incorporating Dublin businesses into the program.

Mr. Clifton suggested working with the Dublin Chamber of Commerce to help find businesses and market the card towards them. He also suggested labeling veteran-owned businesses within the commerce catalog.

Ms. Blake agreed, noting that they could reach out to the Chamber and schedule a meeting. She also remarked that the Chamber does not currently maintain a veteran-owned business list, however the Chamber is updating their business contacts and is asking any business if they are veteran-owned so the list should be created soon.

Mr. Clifton said that he did reach out to the Chamber on social media to ask for a veteran's business list and agreed with Ms. Blake that the list does not currently exist. He suggested creating a liaison between the two entities.

Mr. Noble remarked that the Dublin Chamber of Commerce could be invited to the next Veteran's Committee Meeting.



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Mr. Noble suggested that the committee meets next month instead of waiting until March.

Ms. Blake noted that they should check the Chamber's availability for a meeting.

Mr. Parkhill brought up the Memorial Tournament Ticket lottery and asked if it included admittance to the free lunch within the villa.

Ms. Blake explained the program in more detail and how a winner is chosen, and confirmed that this included admittance to the City's villa and free lunch. She also noted that there is a Veteran specific tent within the Memorial Tournament but it is unrelated to the City or the Veteran Appreciation Card program.

Mr. Parkhill clarified that he was specifically referencing the fact that this inclusion of villa access is not noted on the website.

Ms. Blake said that this value is built into the ticket but noted that staff could add it to the website for clarification.

Guest, Buck Bramlish suggested using concrete garden stones to recognize veterans within housing subdivisions. He remarked that this could be a strong draw to the card and could encourage people to sign up.

Ms. Blake noted that although the idea of having a stone to recognize veterans would be a nice designation there would be budgetary implications which would require a recommendation back to Council.

Mr. Noble suggested that working with the Chamber could help the effort in finding businesses who want to support Dublin veterans.

Ms. Blake explained the Economic Development business district map and density of retail businesses in certain areas.

Mr. Clifton asked if the map shown is consistent with what the Chamber has.

Ms. Blake noted that this map is from the City's Economic Development Department and is focused on commercial business districts as determined by the City's Economic Development team. It is likely different than what the Chamber of Commerce uses.

Mr. Noble said that the Chamber probably has good information regarding retail business contacts.



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Mr. Clifton asked if the discount offered by businesses could also be listed on the website or email.

Ms. Blake said that businesses would best fit on the website and their logo in an email.

Mr. Clifton asked if there could be an opportunity to have some sort of marker for businesses to put on their doors or windows.

Ms. Gamary agreed that this was a good idea and would allow veterans to see a business's support.

Ms. Blake noted that while these are good ideas, they also have budget implications and said that she would work with Dublin staff to figure out feasibility.

Ms. Gamary said that there will likely be businesses that are not on the Chamber's directory and will require direct communication.

Ms. Blake said that she has the information she needs and will proceed with the Committee's recommendation to speak with the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Bramlish returned to the idea of the garden stones and suggested that the City could work with Oakland Nursery.

Ms. Blake noted that due to a conflict of interest, the City is unable to purchase from Oakland Nursery.

5. St. Patrick's Day Parade

Mr. Noble announced the St. Patrick's Day Parade would be on March 9th and highlighted that the color guard is going to lead the parade. He asked about overhead wires on the parade route.

Ms. Blake noted that she was unsure of the project's completion date.

Mr. Noble noted that he would enjoy having a trolley for older veterans to participate in the parade.

6. Military Round Table

Mr. Noble spoke about the upcoming Military Roundtable Schedule for the year.

Mr. Clifton asked if Mr. Noble need assistance in talking to Frank LaRose.



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Mr. Noble said that he was in contact with his scheduler but if time passes and there is no movement he could use his help. He noted that there was some built in flexibility to the schedule.

7. Veterans Affairs

Ms. Blake went over the legislation spreadsheet and current status of the bills in the federal government.

Mr. Noble asked Mr. Bramlish about H.B. 69 and its status.

Mr. Bramlish noted that he is in the loop and nothing has changed. He then explained what changes are trying to be made to the Franklin County Veterans Service Commission. He remarked that he has been going to the hearings regarding this bill and that the feeling is that it would likely not be passed.

Mr. Bramlish said that anyone is welcome and encouraged to attend the Commission's meetings. He also gave some information regarding the work that the Commission has done over the past year.

8. New Business

Ms. Ritzler spoke about the Hero Hut at the Dublin Irish Festival (DIF) and shared that the City event staff would be moving on from the Hero Hut Organization's involvement in the Festival. The current plan is to partner with local students to rename the tent. Additionally, Ms. Ritzler noted that staff wants to focus the tent on Dublin and prioritize the businesses and organizations that support the tent.

Mr. Clifton (member of the DIF veterans committee) remarked that the City taking full ownership of the tent will provide increased efficiency. Ms. Ritzler reiterated that there is no hard feelings but there was a good opportunity for community involvement in bringing the tent back under City control.

Mr. Dickman added that the partnership between schools and students is extremely valuable and adds a lot to the community.

Mr. Clifton shared that Dublin Coffman High School will have a Veterans Appreciation Basketball Night on January 26th. This event will be free for veterans and current service members and will include a recognition event.

Mr. Parkhill suggested that this could be a good event to market the Veteran's Appreciation Card.



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Mr. Clifton added that there could be a table for the Veteran's Committee at the game.

Mr. Dickman noted that he would be there and is willing to help.

Mr. Hansley added that Dublin Scioto is sponsoring a basketball game and dinner of February 9th.

Ms. Gamary went over additional details regarding the meal time and events during the game such as veteran recognition. The event is for veterans and their families. She added that if people wanted to attend to please RSVP by the February 1st.

Ms. Blake agreed that a table would be nice and noted that she could potentially help set up the table and attend.

Mr. Bramlish spoke about the veteran's homes in Sandusky and Georgetown and the lack of participation from Central Ohio veterans. He noted that out of six states, Ohio ranks last in number of nursing beds per capita of veterans. Currently, there are plans to modernize these homes with the help of the federal government. He promoted the idea of campaigning for a new home in Ohio and laid out some ideas for how to do so.

Mr. Clifton asked about the staffing and jobs related to the veterans homes.

Mr. Bramlish detailed some of the current hiring and staffing practices and highlighted some difficulties that the two homes have. He suggested that Central Ohio would be easier to staff. He added that Northeast Ohio is also likely looking to build a new home.

9. Roundtable

Ms. Gamary spoke about the next generation and how they help organize things within the community and how their involvement should be promoted.

Ms. Blake introduced Jim Loch, Events Administrator who is in charge of sponsorships for City Events.

Mr. Loch spoke about the process of securing sponsorships for the Veteran's area of the Dublin Irish Festival and would help any way he could as he is already connected with many businesses.



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Mr. Noble asked about the former Hero Hut and future sponsorship.

Mr. Loch noted that he was in communication with several businesses, primarily OSU Wexner Outpatient Center.

Mr. Noble asked who was in charge of the alcohol tents next to the Hero Hut at the Irish Festival.

Ms. Blake remarked that it changes but that overall the tent did well compared to previous years.

Mr. Noble motioned to adjourn.

Mr. Parkhill seconded

The meeting was adjourned at 4:34 PM.

10. Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted,

Kendel Blake, Assistant to the City Manager

Jeff Noble, Chair

Bonnie Gamary, Vice Chair