



## MEETING MINUTES

### DUBLIN VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 19, 2024

#### CALL TO ORDER

Jeff Noble, Chair, called the Dublin Veterans Advisory Committee (DVAC) meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in City Council Chamber, 5555 Perimeter Drive.

#### ROLL CALL

Members Present: Sean Clifton, Stephen Dickman, Bonnie Gamary, Jan Rozanski, Jeff Noble, Tracy Owens, John Reiner

Members Absent: Roger Ansel, Tim Hansley, Mike Kehoe

Staff Present: Kendel Blake, Jenny Delgado, Jayme Maxwell, Lori Gischel, Carrie Ritzler

Guests Present: Robert (Buck) Bramlish, Executive Director, Franklin County Veterans Service Commission  
Jon Bennehoof, former City of Powell Council Member  
Tom Holton, president, Dublin Historical Society

#### • ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Ms. Blake reviewed the duties of the Chair and Vice Chair.

Mr. Owens moved, Mr. Reiner seconded the appointment of Jeff Noble to a one-year term as Chair.

Vote: Ms. Gamary, yes; Mr. Dickman, yes; Mr. Clifton, yes; Mr. Owens, yes; Mr. Rozanski, yes; Mr. Reiner, yes; Mr. Noble, yes.

[Motion carried 7-0]

Mr. Reiner moved, Mr. Rozanski seconded the appointment of Bonnie Gamary to a one-year term as Vice Chair.

Vote: Mr. Clifton, yes; Mr. Dickman, yes; Mr. Owens, yes; Mr. Rozanski, yes; Mr. Reiner, yes; Mr. Noble, yes; Ms. Gamary, yes.

[Motion carried 7-0]

#### • APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Owens requested a correction to his comments in paragraph 4 on page 1 of the July 18, 2024 minutes. The number of Soviet countries to which he referred should have been 15 not 17.

Mr. Noble moved, Mr. Owens seconded approval of the July 18, 2024 DVAC minutes as amended.

Vote: Mr. Reiner, yes; Mr. Noble, yes; Mr. Rozanski, yes; Ms. Gamary, yes; Mr. Dickman, yes; Mr. Clifton, yes; Tracy Owens, yes.

[Motion carried 7-0.]

- **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

There were no citizen comments.

- **ADVISORY COMMITTEE TRAINING**

Jennifer Delgado, Clerk of Council stated that Advisory Committee training is a new effort initiated this year after a comprehensive effort by City Council to align and make their advisory committees consistent. The training will be repeated annually. She reviewed the Advisory Committee roles and responsibilities for the Committee and for individual Committee members. The Office of Legislative Services' primary duties are to provide staff support to City Council and their boards, commissions and committees, working within the mandates of the Ohio Revised Code, Revised City Charter and the City's Codified Ordinances. The City has Boards and Commissions that are established by City Charter, such as the Planning and Zoning Commission, and others that are established by ordinance and are integrated into City Code. An example of the latter would be the Architectural Review Board. The Boards and Commissions are decision-making bodies whose authorities are identified in the City Charter and the Code. As the City grew, City Council recognized the need for focused work on certain issues and established four Advisory Committees to assist Council in that work: Community Services Advisory Committee (CSAC), Community Inclusion Advisory Committee (CIAC), Chief's Advisory Committee (CAC) and the Dublin Veterans Advisory Committee (DVAC). As part of their review of the Advisory Committees this year, City Council adopted amendments to the Advisory Committees' establishing legislation, Rules and Regulations and Code of Conduct. There were minimal changes to the DVAC establishing legislation. The primary change was with its membership. The updated legislation no longer specifies that there must be a member from each military branch represented on the committee. Additionally, a specific number of members is no longer required. Council has the flexibility to appoint whatever number of members it may choose, although it would never be less than the 3 members required by City Charter. Per City Council's requests, the Law Director's office has provided a memo clarifying the role of the Advisory Committee. Ms. Delgado reviewed public meeting definition and requirements; meeting procedures; social media best practices; role of the committee liaison; and public records. She noted that the Advisory Committee chairs will be providing the annual reports for their committees at an upcoming Council meeting.

Ms. Delgado invited committee member questions.

Mr. Owens inquired the appropriate process for adding a topic to an upcoming meeting agenda.

Ms. Delgado advised committee members to forward an email to the Committee chair and liaison expressing a desire to have said topic on the agenda.

Ms. Blake, staff liaison, indicated that she and the Chair would need to receive the email expressing the committee member's interest in having the item scheduled on the agenda a minimum of 7 days in advance of the meeting date. The topic must fall within the Committee's outlined scope of duties and functions to be considered by the Committee. The Committee may only discuss business that City Council has asked them to consider.

Mr. Owens inquired if it would be appropriate to assign a couple of committee members to investigate a topic to report on to the Committee.

Mr. Noble stated that if it is a topic that needs significant research, the DVAC can designate a working subcommittee to investigate a topic and compile information to provide to DVAC for further discussion and consideration.

Mr. Owens inquired if the first step would be to propose an idea and discuss it as the whole committee. If so, would the Committee then move and vote to have the topic researched further? If so, he assumes the investigation then would be completed and a report provided for an upcoming Committee agenda for further consideration. He inquired if it would be appropriate for the committee member to conduct their own research first on a topic and then request that the item be scheduled on an upcoming agenda for consideration.

Ms. Delgado responded that it would be appropriate for the committee member to conduct their research first and then ask to have it scheduled on the agenda for the Committee's discussion and consideration. However, the report must be presented and discussed by the Committee in public.

Mr. Owens stated that would be the process for one member to have an item scheduled on the Committee agenda for discussion. However, could a subcommittee also be formally appointed by the Committee, and that subcommittee then conduct their investigation and compile a report to bring back to the Committee for consideration?

Ms. Blake stated that it is important that the report be provided to the entire Committee for consideration. The topic must be a product of the Committee, not individual committee members. Before any agenda topic can be scheduled for the Committee's consideration, there is a vetting process of the idea, conducted by the Committee Chair and the staff liaison, before the proposal can be scheduled for the Committee's consideration.

Ms. Maxwell stated that the goal is that all Committee members have the same information before consideration of the agenda topic. Any offsite review must be reported to the greater Committee.

As there were no further questions, the Advisory Committee training was completed.

- **LIBRARY PROGRAM AT VETERANS PARK**

Ms. Lori Gischel, Events Administrator, stated that she is seeking the Committee's feedback on a proposed event in Veterans Park. The Columbus Metro – Dublin Library Manager approached the City inquiring if they could host their Grave Tales event, a Halloween-themed event, in Veterans Park on October 23, 2024 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. It is her understanding that the Library held this event five years ago, before the new construction and addition of Rock Cress Parkway. Due to the theme of this event, they would appreciate having the backdrop of the Indian Run Cemetery. They are bringing this proposal to the Dublin Veterans Advisory Committee recognizing that in addition to being good neighbors to the Library, it is important to respect the intent of the Veterans Park and those interred in the cemetery. If the Committee is not supportive of the idea, different venues will be suggested to the Library.

Mr. Reiner stated that Tales at the Cemetery is an old tradition in Dublin.

Ms. Blake stated that the Library would not be using the area of the cemetery in which there are gravestones, only the area in which the podium is typically located for the Veterans Day ceremony and the adjacent walkway.

Mr. Noble stated that the event was discussed at the most recent local Legion meeting, and none of the Legionnaires expressed a concern with the event. The Library has been a good neighbor.

Ms. Gamary stated that she is supportive of blending literacy with the veterans' recognition environment.

Committee members expressed a consensus of support for the event.

- **DUBLIN IRISH FESTIVAL (DIF) DEFENDERS DEN RECAP/VETERANS DAY CEREMONY UPDATE**

Mr. Noble stated that the DIF Defenders Den experienced high attendance this year. Ms. Ritzler stated that there were over 380 sign-ins with over 750 guests, representing 20 states and 10 branches, including EMS/Fire, and 12 organizations.

Mr. Clifton stated that the event continues to grow and become more efficient. The process and event layout is becoming easier to prepare for the event.

Mr. Noble reported that he has invited a guest speaker for the Veterans Day event, who has not yet confirmed. If he does not accept, he has a backup speaker, Major Sean Lovell, a fellow Legionnaire, who indicated he would do the honors. The event schedule this year remains the same as for past events with breakfast at La Chatelaine and the ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Park. Looking ahead to the 2025 event, Stacia Naquin, co-anchor ABC 6 News, has agreed to speak.

- **KARRER MIDDLE SCHOOL PURPLE STAR DESIGNATION**

Ms. Gamary reported that Dublin Scioto High School is no longer the only Dublin School that has a purple star designation; Karrer Middle School now has the purple star designation.

Mr. Clifton stated that his youngest son attends Karrer Middle School. He inquired if there are any projects that the school Purple Star group has that the Committee could help with or promote. Ms. Gamary responded that she would inquire and report back.

- **MILITARY ROUNDTABLE**

Mr. Noble stated that the next Military Roundtable is scheduled for next Monday, 1:00 p.m., at the Dublin Recreation Center. Frank LaRose, Secretary of State and Army veteran, will be speaking. One item on which he will be speaking is his observations from a recent training tour at the Texas southern border.

- **VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Ms. Blake stated that a list was provided in the meeting packet of those bills that are in process both at the state and federal level legislatures. Of note is State Senate Bill 225, a proposal to revise a section of the Ohio Revised Code (O.R.C.) to designate September 22 as Veterans Suicide Awareness and Prevention Day.

Mr. Bramlish stated that on the Federal side, for those veterans who have been receiving disability benefits based on the PACT Act, there is a \$3 billion funding gap due to a miscalculation. The Senate is in the process of forwarding a funding reconciliation bill to the President for signature to prevent the delay of October benefit payments.

Ms. Blake noted that also provided in the meeting packet was a copy of the Franklin County Veterans Service Commission's Fiscal Analysis for the past quarter.

Mr. Noble noted that he is a member of the Franklin County Veterans Service Commission. Committee member Mike Kehoe also served on the Commission. The Commissioners are nominated by area service organizations. This year is the VFW's turn to nominate an individual. The current VFW Commissioner will not be continuing, so there will be an opening this fall. If any Committee

member would be interested in serving on the Commission as an employee of the County, let him know, and he will enter their name for consideration.

- **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Clifton introduced Jon Bennehoof, resident of the City of Powell. He invited Mr. Bennahoff to share his resume of military and public service with the Committee. He noted that Mr. Bennehoof is interested in working with the DVAC to obtain guidance on proposing a Veterans Advisory Committee to the City Council of the City of Powell.

Mr. Bennehoof indicated that he is a former Navy veteran and a former Councilman and mayor. He and the Development Director for the City of Powell are interested in having their city form a Veterans Advisory Commission. They have developed a charter that he will be presenting to the Powell City Council for consideration. One of their goals is to have the City established as a Purple Heart City. He has asked Mr. Clifton for his guidance in starting their commission. He believes the slides regarding the Veterans Advisory Committee's role would be helpful to them in setting up a Veterans Advisory Commission.

Ms. Blake stated that the Committee would be happy to share the slides, establishing resolution and any other documents that would be helpful to them in setting up a similar committee.

Mr. Clifton stated that as a neighbor to Powell, perhaps this collaboration could be a potential project for the DVAC.

Mr. Rozanski stated that there may be other Veterans Advisory Committees for other communities. Perhaps a Council of Committees could be formed for purposes of sharing and collaboration.

[Mr. Owens departed for another engagement.]

Mr. Bramlish informed members of the Ohio Milvets Veterans Day Rally on the National Veterans Memorial and Museum grounds, Sunday, November 10, 11:30-3:30 p.m. in Columbus. Veterans, veteran family members and community members are invited to attend. Different service offices and organizations will be represented. The event will feature entertainment, a free meal and veteran-related vendor tents. All attendees can also take advantage of the Dog Tag Discount Program and enjoy discounted or complimentary admission to the National Veterans Memorial and Museum and COSI.

- **COMMITTEE ROUNDTABLE**

Ms. Gamary stated that there have been many recent efforts to connect veterans and teenagers and other community members at various activities. At Dublin Scioto High School (H.S.), there was a recent military appreciation football game, and there are students who participate in the Purple Star group. The Veterans Story event will be held at Dublin Scioto H.S. on November 7 at 3:00 p.m. Any committee members who would like to participate should contact her.

Mr. Dickman stated that he is continuing to work on an effort to have Dublin Schools initiate a Junior ROTC program. As the committee knows, Mr. Reiner recently met with Dr. Marschhausen encouraging him to pursue this opportunity for Dublin Schools, and Dr. Marschhausen indicated that Dublin Schools is interested. Although a new charter has not been scheduled to open at Dublin Schools, the school is at the top of the list, pending identification of an advisor for the chapter.

Mr. Rozanski informed members that the National Veterans Memorial and Museum will be holding the Gold Star Families Memorial dedication on Sunday, September 29.

Mr. Reiner stated that the history teacher at St. Timothy School is looking for veteran volunteers to speak to his history class. If anyone is interested, he can provide the contact information.

### Staff Comments

Ms. Blake reminded committee members of the following events/opportunities:

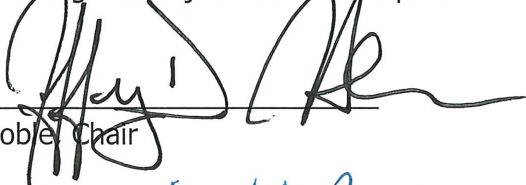
- The City's annual Employee Veterans Appreciation Lunch will be held November 6, at 11:30 a.m. This event is for all City employees who are veterans. DVAC members are invited to attend, as well.
- The chairs of Dublin City Council's four advisory committees will be presenting their annual reports to City Council on Monday, November 18. She will prepare a draft memo of the report topics and email it to committee members soliciting their feedback. The intent is to have the consensus of the Committee on the report.
- The City is working on a GIS tool for its Veterans Remembrance website to add every Dublin veteran gravesite to the GIS map. The app will include the individual veteran stories, if available, and will also incorporate gravesite navigation direction. The City's goal is to have that project completed for its 400+ deceased veterans before Veterans Day 2024.

Mr. Dickman indicated that he was available to speak at the Employee Veterans Lunch on November 6 to share updated information on available veteran benefits.

The next DVAC meeting will be held on Thursday, November 21, 4:00 p.m., in Council Chamber.

### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

  
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Jeff Noble, Chair

  
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Assistant Clerk of Council