

# **VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION OF HAMILTON COUNTY**

**WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 23, 2024**

## **Board Meeting Minutes**

Pledge led by Commission President, Jean Wilson

Meeting called to order at 10:00 by Commission President, Jean Wilson

Roll Call:

Mr. Headen- present, Mr. Rowland- excused, Mr. Staniford – present, Mr. Watson, present, Mrs. Wilson – present

Recognition of Staff and Guests

Director Mr. Sonza, Pam Minser, Eric Munas, Amber Ndubuisi- VSC Outreach Manager, <sup>Charles</sup> Norton- Veteran and Laura Zazanis of The Marketing Pack.

### **Open Forum:**

Mr. Headen will be attending the Birthday Celebration for Veteran David Lett, Jr. Mr. Lett turned 100 years of age on September 1, 2024. The celebration will be on Thursday October 24, 2024 location was given to each of the Commissioners so they may attend if they wish.

### **October 9, 2024 – Minutes**

A motion was made to approve the minutes for October 9, 2024 as published was made by Mr. Staniford, duly seconded by Mr. Headen.

Discussion:

Hearing None

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Headen – yes, Mr. Staniford – yes, Mr. Watson – yes, Mrs. Wilson – yes

Unanimous vote motion carries:

Minutes from October 9, 2024 approved as published

### **Old Business:**

#### **Cemetery/Monuments:**

Discussed the need for 3 quotes from Vine St. cemetery for the Veterans monument. According to ORC 5901 cemetery and monuments fall under the Board of County Commissioner's (BoCC's) not the VSC. Director Sonza stated that he has reached out to the BoCC's Administrator Jeff Alutto to see if this is something that the BoCC's would like the VSC to consider doing. With the understanding that it would be funded by the BoCC's After visiting Green County VSC and speaking with the Executive Director there his opinion is not to take this on at the VSC level. Private – Non-Profit cemeteries would question why we can't support them.

Nothing has been formalized and more research will need to be done. This would be a big project for the VSC to take on.

**Pictures:**

The photographer will be here the next meeting November 13, 2024 at 8:30am. Commissioners and Staff will have their pictures taken recommendation that everyone wears their VSC shirt. Mrs. Wilson wanted to know if everyone should wear the same color of shirt to represent unity of the Board.

**Easterseals of Redwood**

Easterseals of Redwood Military & Veterans Services is asking the Veterans Service Commission to sponsor a Veterans Day Appreciation Breakfast, coupled with Triumph Over Trauma. The request total is \$2,513.50.

Motion made to sponsor the Easterseals Breakfast in the amount of \$2,513.50 was made by Mr. Staniford, duly seconded by Mr. Headen.

**Discussion:**

The VSC logo will be represented in the advertisement for this event, confirmed that VSC's logo will be used and presented as a sponsoring partner for the event.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Mr. Headen – yes, Mr. Staniford – yes, Mr. Watson – yes, Mrs. Wilson- yes

Unanimous vote: Motion carried

**New Business****2025 Veterans Appreciation Day Event**

Amber Ndubuisi, VSC Outreach Manager and Laura Zazanis with Marketing Pack gave a overview of the goals for 2025 Veterans Event. Many things are being looked into before the location and date can be established. VSC would like to partner with AUSA, who puts together Operation Thank You at Sawyer Point, working with Lou Sand of The Great Parks of Hamilton County, Todd Sledge who would like to bring the VA Mobile units who will offer the same day adjudication on claims. This will have to be an 8-hour day commitment for the VA mobile units. GABP has been contacted regarding an 8-hour day commitment for the use of the ballpark for next year, waiting on feedback from Vicki Volp to see if this can be done. VSC would like to see the vendors who participate in 2025 even be able to provide onsite services for veterans instead of handing out information to them. As more information becomes available, updates will be given to the board.

**Green County VSC trip:**

Mr. Sonza gave an overview of his trip to the Veterans Service Commission in Green County, Ohio.

He shared information on their Veterans Hall of Fame for Green County Veterans. This done once a year 3 plaques are made one to the Veteran, one for the Board of County Commissioners and then one for the VSC Veterans Hall of Fame. Letters are sent to community veteran organizations for names to be submitted and once a year a name is nominated for the Hall of Fame.

**Bond Hill:**

Thinking that the move will happen next year Mr. Sonza has spoken with Jeff Alutto about doing a Veterans Monument at the new location. Flags for all 6 branches of the Military, memorial for all conflicts. Location of memorial and to see if a zoning permit is needed. A flag drop box has been ordered and will be placed in the VSC lobby. This drop box is for used flags to be placed in for proper disposal. Green County VSC does a semi-annual flag ceremony with the local fire department.

**Transit Vans:**

Viewing of three transit vans

**Executive Session:**

Commission President Wilson requests a motion to enter into executive session “to consider the purchase of property for public purposes, the sale of property at the competitive bidding, or the sale or other disposition of unneeded, obsolete, or unfit-for-use property as permitted under Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(2)” and to allow Nick Hall of ABS Transit Bus Company to attend executive session

The Motion for Executive session was made by Mr. Staniford, duly seconded by Mr. Headen

Roll call vote:

Mr. Headen – yes, Mr. Staniford – yes, Mr. Watson – yes, Mrs. Wilson – yes

Unanimous vote: Motion carried

Returned to open meeting forum:

**Purchase of Van:**

Motion to purchase the 22-foot transit van with wheelchair accessibility, other needed equipment needed for the van including camera’s and the wrapping of the van not to exceed \$125,000.00 was made by Mr. Staniford, duly seconded by Mr. Headen.

Discussion: Hearing none

Roll call vote:

Mr. Headen – yes, Mr. Staniford – yes, Mr. Watson – yes, Mrs. Wilson – yes

Motion carried to purchase transit van

**Commissioner updates:****Mrs. Wilson:**

On November 11, 2024 at 7pm the American Legion Post#199 will be honoring 18-25 with the Red, White & Blue award for donating their time, using their own equipment and their own personal money to help with the North Carolina Hurricane clean up. A second trip to assist is currently being planned.

**Mr. Headen:**

On November 9, 2024 Mr. Headen is being sponsored by his post to participate in the DAV 5k run/walk marathon.

**Next board meeting will be November 11, 2024 at 10:00 am.**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Headen, duly seconded by Mr. Staniford.

Roll call vote:

Mr. Headen – yes, Mr. Staniford – yes, Mr. Watson – yes, Mrs. Wilson – yes

Discussion: Hearing none

**Motion carried – meeting adjourned**

**Approved by:**

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**Jean Wilson, President**

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**Richard Headen, Vice President**

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**Steven Staniford, Secretary**

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**Lee Watson, Commissioner**

