



**TOWN OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA
VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD
THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2023 – 5:15 PM
ARTHUR CAMPBELL ROOM
FIRST FLOOR, TOWN HALL**

DRAFT AGENDA

- A. Call to Order – *Chair Kiser***
- B. Roll Call – *Chair Kiser***
- C. Pledge of Allegiance – *Francine Ivery***
- D. Approval of draft agenda – *Chair Kiser***
- E. Approval of minutes – *Chair Kiser***
 - May 18, 2023
- F. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Please place your name on the sign-up sheet provided, and comments are limited to three (3) minutes per person.**
 - Town of Abingdon residents
 - Other public comments (e.g. organizations)
- G. NEW BUSINESS**
- H. OLD BUSINESS**
 - 1. Updates from standing committees
- I. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CHAIR**
- J. MEMBER REPORTS**
- K. NEXT MEETING – *Chair Kiser***
- L. ADJOURNMENT**

**VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD
THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023 – 5:15 pm
ARTHUR CAMPBELL ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

The regular meeting of the Veterans Advisory Board was held on Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 5:15 pm in the Arthur Campbell Room of the Municipal Building.

- A. Call to Order – *Chair Kiser***
- B. Roll Call**

Members Present:

Gary Bailey
Lynn Bennett
Kyle Craig
Tim Estes
Richard “Dickie” Kiser
Mel Schwartzstein
Amanda Pillion (late)

Members Absent:

Albert T. Lawson, Jr.
Francine Ivery

Town Staff:

Kim Kingsley

Guests:

Julianne Miles

- C. Pledge of Allegiance**
- D. Approval of draft agenda**

Upon motion by Mr. Estes, seconded by Mr. Schwartzstein, approved the agenda as presented.

Amanda Pillion	Aye
Gary Bailey	Aye
Lynn Bennett	Aye
Kyle Craig	Aye
Tim Estes	Aye
Francine Ivery	Absent
Richard “Dickie” Kiser	Aye
Albert T. Lawson, Jr.	Absent
Mel Schwartzstein	Aye

E. Approval of minutes

Upon motion by Mr. Craig, seconded by Mr. Bailey, approved the minutes as presented with the correction of “Plumb Alley” for “Plum Alley.”

Amanda Pillion	Aye
Gary Bailey	Aye
Lynn Bennett	Aye
Kyle Craig	Aye
Tim Estes	Aye
Francine Ivery	Absent)
Richard “Dickie” Kiser	Aye
Albert T. Lawson, Jr.	Absent
Mel Schwartzstein	Aye

F. Public Comments – None

G. New Business

Mr. Craig suggested the Board consider presenting a monthly Proclamation to the Town Council for PTSD Awareness Month, National Parks & Recreation, Purple Heart Day, Suicide Prevention Month, and National Veterans & Military Families Month. (See “Attachment A”) Discussion ensued.

Upon motion by Mr. Craig, seconded by Mr. Estes, recommended the Council entertain proposed Proclamations as set forth in the discussion.

Amanda Pillion	Aye
Gary Bailey	Aye
Lynn Bennett	Aye
Kyle Craig	Aye
Tim Estes	Aye
Francine Ivery	Absent
Richard “Dickie” Kiser	Aye
Albert T. Lawson, Jr.	Absent
Mel Schwartzstein	Aye

Mr. Craig advised that the third Saturday of the month would be an additional breakfast, with the first being May 20, 2023. Discussion also included purchasing 100 flags for Flag Day, presenting certificates to Veterans at Deer Point, the National Guard Ghost Rider 1032nd fundraising, and continued communication with White Top Yoga.

Upon motion by Ms. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Schwartzstein, purchase an additional 100 flags.

Amanda Pillion	Aye
Gary Bailey	Aye
Lynn Bennett	Aye
Kyle Craig	Aye
Tim Estes	Aye
Francine Ivery	Absent
Richard “Dickie” Kiser	Aye
Albert T. Lawson, Jr.	Absent
Mel Schwartzstein	Aye

Mr. Craig noted three members requested reappointed, and the National Guard Open House is scheduled for August 12, 2023 at Exit 22.

H. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Estes discussed the Field of Flags event. Mr. Bailey discussed “encourage/promotion” by working with White Top Yoga, the First Tuesday breakfast, and placing information at the Visitors Center and Coomes Recreation Center.

I. Miscellaneous Business and Communications from Chair

Mr. Craig suggested members should attend the Council meeting to support the proclamations.

J. Members Reports - None

K. Schedule next meeting – Thursday, June 15, 2023

Richard Kiser, Chair

Kim Kingsley, Clerk

Approved:

"Attachment A"

Kyle Craig
5/18/23

Proclamations

- May** National Military Appreciation Month
- June** PTSD Awareness Month June has been known as the National PTSD Awareness Month with June 27 being the official National PTSD Awareness Day. Currently, people in the United States dedicate this month to be an opportunity to raise awareness for PTSD, reduce stigma, and spread the word that treatment is available
- July** National Parks & Recreation Month Since 1985, people in the United States have celebrated Park and Recreation Month in July to promote building strong, vibrant and resilient communities through the power of parks and recreation
- August** Purple Heart Day is observed on Aug. 7 each year and is a time for Americans to remember and honor the brave men and women who were either wounded on the battlefield or paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives
- September** Suicide Prevention Month —a time to raise awareness of this stigmatized, and often taboo, topic. We use this month to shift public perception, spread hope and share vital information to people affected by suicide
- November** National Veterans & Military Families Month