



**TOWN OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA
VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD
THURSDAY, JULY 20, 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 – Lynn Bennett**
- D. Approval of draft agenda – Chair Kiser**
- E. Approval of minutes – Chair Kiser**
 - June 15, 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**

VAB meeting on June 15, 2023

The regular meeting of the VAB was held on June 15, 2023, at 5:15pm 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

Members Absent: Francine Ivery, Albert T. Lawson, Jr.

Absent: Kim Kingsley

Town Staff: Mike Cochran

Guests: Brandon and Brett Mann (Scout Troop 70)

C. Pledge-Brett Mann (Troop 70)

D. Approval of draft agenda

Upon motion by Mr. Estes, seconded by Mr. Schwartzstein, the draft agenda was approved.

All present approved: Gary Bailey
Lynn Bennett
Kyle Craig
Tim Estes
Richard "Dickie" Kiser
Mel Schwartzstein
Amanda Pillion

E. Approval of Minutes – no changes

Upon motion by Mr. Craig, seconded by Mr. Bailey, the minutes were approved by all.

Gary Bailey

Lynn Bennett

Kyle Craig

Tim Estes

Richard “Dickie” Kiser

Mel Schwartzstein

Amanda Pillion

F. Public Comments: Boy Scout Troop 70 was present, asking permission to begin an Eagle Scout Project honoring his grandfather Gilmer Mann, a Purple Heart recipient, and a founding board member of Veteran’s Memorial Park. There was a lot of discussion on possible park projects and the VAB recommended some initial contacts for the project and as the project progresses, will continue to review and assist.

G. New Business

- Mr. Craig introduced the NG will have a Change of Command ceremony in September. Suggested location is the VHCC. VAB has been asked to support.
- There is an opportunity for our Board to participate at VET FEST in Lebanon on September 30th. More to come.
- Mr. Craig and Ms. Bennett are currently engaging the “Young Student Veterans group at VHCC. We are in communication with the student director of their activities.

- Mr. Craig, Ms. Bennett, and Mr. Schwartzstein are working on the Purple Heart parking location. It was decided that a location at Veteran's Memorial Park is the ideal first location close to the new bathrooms. Mr. Cochran and Ms. Pillion will assist us with the installation and available for media coverage on August 7th for the "unveiling."
- Ms. Pillion and Mr. Craig completed filming on a "Monday with the Mayor" to honor July as National Park Month. Included in the video is a tribute to Emmitt Yeary and that our Veterans Park is turning 20 years old. This segment will air on July 3rd.
- Mr. Schwartzstein wants the VAB to consider getting "Branch Flags" for our next events. Currently in research, more to come.

H. Old Business

Mr. Schwartzstein discussed the success of Field of Flags from a help perspective.

Mr. Craig wanted to say a special "Thank You" to the VANG 1032nd (VA Army National Guard) for supplying the manpower in setting the flag poles.

Ms. Bennett wanted to say a special "Thank You" to the Democratic party for support in transporting the flag poles to the VFW from the park on May 30th.

Mr. Bailey has stocked the Visitors Center with the new business cards and flyers. He will continue to monitor and restock as necessary.

Ms. Bennett stated that the veteran breakfast seemed to be attracting new people. One at a time. The Tuesday and

Saturday breakfast seem positive, and the attendance is growing.

I. Miscellaneous Business and Communications from Chair

- Chair Kiser wants everyone to be prepared for next meeting as new officers are elected at our July meeting.
- Board Members' attendance was discussed and the possibility of adding additional people to help generate new ideas.
- There was a discussion on getting new T-shirts for board activities. \$8 per tee if we keep it simple. Mr. Estes will cost out.
- Chair Kiser would like to put the flags up at the Visitor Center, Monday June 26th at 1600 hours. We will remove them on July 6th at 0800 hours. Please come help.

J. Member Reports

- Purple Heart Day is August 7th. A proclamation will be presented at the Town Council meeting at 18:30 hours. The unveiling of the purple heart parking location will be that morning. Mr. Craig is working on media coverage.
- We will continue our support of the 9-11 ceremony in Glade Springs. More to come.

K. Schedule next Meeting – Thursday, July 20th, 2023 (previous invitation said July 13th)

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Estes and seconded by Mr. Schwartzstein. Meeting adjourned at 18:21 hours.