



**TOWN OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA  
VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2024 – 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 – *Mel Schwartzstein***
- D. Approval of draft agenda – *Chair Kiser***
- E. Approval of minutes – *Chair Kiser***
  - December 21, 2023
  - January 18, 2024 (no quorum)
- 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
  - 2. Discussion regarding hosting Armed Forces Day event
- I. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CHAIR**
- J. MEMBER REPORTS**
- K. NEXT MEETING – *Chair Kiser***
- L. ADJOURNMENT**

**VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2023 – 5:15 pm  
ARTHUR CAMPBELL ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

The regular meeting of the Veterans Advisory Board was held on Thursday, December 21, 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:

Lynn Bennett  
Kyle Craig  
Richard “Dickie” Kiser  
Mel Schwartzstein  
Tim Estes  
Albert T. Lawson, Jr. (arrived 5:17 pm)  
Gary Bailey

Members absent:

Amanda Pillion  
John Lentz  
Vickie Bennett  
Cade Parks  
Francine Ivery

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

**Upon motion by Tim Estes, seconded by Lynn Bennett, approved the agenda as presented.**

<b>Amanda Pillion</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Gary Bailey</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Lynn Bennett</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Kyle Craig</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Tim Estes</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Richard “Dickie” Kiser</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Albert T. Lawson, Jr.</b>	<b>Absent at vote</b>
<b>Mel Schwartzstein</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>John Lentz</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Vickie Bennett</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Cade Parks</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Francine Ivery</b>	<b>Absent</b>

**E. Approval of minutes**

**Upon motion by Lynn Bennett, seconded by Mel Schwartzstein, approved the November 16, 2023 minutes as presented.**

<b>Amanda Pillion</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Gary Bailey</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Lynn Bennett</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Kyle Craig</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Tim Estes</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Richard “Dickie” Kiser</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Albert T. Lawson, Jr.</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mel Schwartzstein</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>John Lentz</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Vickie Bennett</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Cade Parks</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Francine Ivery</b>	<b>Absent</b>

**F. Public Comments -**

**G. New Business –**

Lynn Bennett discussed working with a local photography club to begin StoryCorps, an organization whose mission is to help us believe in each other by illuminating humanity and possibility in us all – one story at a time. The Military Voices Initiative provides a platform for Veterans, service members, and military families to share their stories. In doing so they honor their voices, amplify their experiences, and let them know that we, as a nation, are listening. Discussions ensued timeframe, locations, times, etc. Discussion also included a small program at the living facilities on Veterans and Memorial Day.

Kyle Craig recapped 2023 events and goals for 2024. Mr. Schwartzstein recommended that the Board work with the Cruisin’ Classic Car Club, allowing other organizations to support each other. Discussion also included the annual budget cycle, with Tim Estes and Mel Schwartzstein being assigned to the ad hoc budget committee by Chair Kiser.

**H. Old Business –**

Gary Bailey shared information regarding the D-Day Memorial for the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary including transportation costs. Discussion ensued regarding raffle tickets.

Mel Schwartzstein commented that the Christmas parade was perfect and would like to accomplish a second Purple Heart parking spot in 2024.

(A.J. Lawson left at 6:15 pm)

Chair Kiser suggested the Board consider an Armed Forces Day event and would like that placed on the next agenda for further discussion.

- I. Miscellaneous Business and Communications from Chair**
- J. Members Reports**
- K. Schedule next meeting – Thursday, January 18, 2024**

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**Richard Kiser, Chair**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Kim Kingsley, Clerk**

**Approved:** \_\_\_\_\_