BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Brown County

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VETERANS SUBCOMMITTEE
Bernie Erickson, Chair
Ed Koslowski, Vice Chair
Rosemary Desisles, Lynn Geiser,
Jim Haskins, John Maino, Delores Pierce,
Duane Pierce, Tracy Rosinski, Joe Witkowski

**Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1688

VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2015
4:30 pm
Room 201, Northern Building
305 E. Walnut Street

NOTE TIME

1. Call Meeting to Order.
2. Invocation.
3. Approve/Modify Agenda.
4. Approve/Modify Minutes of September 15, 2015.
5. Budget Status Financial Report through September 30, 2015.
6. Discussion re: Veterans Day donation list.
7. Report from CVSO Jerry Polus.
8. Comments from Carl Soderberg.
9. Report from Committee Members Present (Erickson, Desisles, Haskins, Geiser, Koslowski, Maino, Pierce, Rosinski & Witkowski).
10. Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law.
11. Adjourn.

Bernie Erickson, Chair

Notice is hereby given that action by Committee may be taken on any of the items which are described or listed in this agenda. Please take notice that it is possible additional members of the Board of Supervisors may attend this meeting, resulting in a majority or quorum of the Board of Supervisors. This may constitute a meeting of the Board of Supervisors for purposes of discussion and information gathering relative to this agenda.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee** was held on Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at 5:00 p.m., in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

PRESENT: Chair Erickson, Ed Koslowski, Duane Pierce, Rosemary Desisles, Jim Haskins, Joe Witkowski, Carl Soderberg
EXCUSED: Delores Pierce, Jerry Polus, Tracy Rosinski

**Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1688

1. **Call Meeting to Order.**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bernie Erickson at 5:00 pm.

2. **Invocation.**

3. **Approve/Modify Agenda.**

The agenda was modified to eliminate Items 5 & 8 and to move Item 11 to follow Item 4.

Motion made by Joe Witkowski, seconded by Rosemary Desisles to approve as modified. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. **Approve/Modify Minutes of August 18, 2015.**

Motion made by Joe Witkowski, seconded by Jim Haskins to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. **Discussion re: Honor Rewards Program.**

This item was eliminated from the agenda; see Item 3 above.

6. **Recap discussion regarding Veterans Appreciation Day at the Brown County Fair.**

Jim Haskins stated that he attended the last Fair Board meeting and brought up that the time of the event was incorrect in the brochure, but this was emphatically denied by the Fair Board. Haskins advised the Fair Board that this mistake had also been made in the past and this caused some issues with some of the attendees. Erickson stated that this Subcommittee needs to be careful with what is said to the Fair Board as the Fair Board has been very good to the group in the past by donating the space, tables, chairs, etc. and he would like to keep this relationship. Erickson explained that the Fair Board runs the Fair; Brown County only provides the facilities and gives $25,000 for operating expenses, but other than that, the Fair Board does it all on their own. Erickson suggested that next year's hours be identical to this year's hours and should be given to Louise Dahlke as early as possible. Koslowski stated that he had spoken with Dahlke on this subject and was advised that the brochures go to print in March.

Motion made by Ed Koslowski, seconded by Jim Haskins to keep the times for next year's event the same as this year (Meet and Greet activities from 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm and ceremony at 5:00 pm). Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Erickson stated that the agenda should be forwarded to Louise Dahlke prior to the first of the year to alleviate any confusion for next year's event. Erickson continued that he and Jerry

Polus had some discussion of what group to honor next year and this will be discussed further at the coming meetings.

Haskins was happy to see that the women veterans' picture was in the paper. Erickson noted that there was a fair amount of news media at the event. Desisles stated that next year she would like to have her table next to the table from the Veterans Office because she felt that she would get more people to sign up for certificates in that location.

Koslowski suggested that Haskins speak with the Fair's PR person to include the veterans' event when they do their advertising. Erickson stated he was a little disappointed that some of the media he contacted did not get back to him to do pre-event interviews to allow Erickson to promote the event ahead of time.

Witkowski stated that he enjoyed the music a great deal and Erickson agreed that the band is very good and entertaining. He would not have a problem having the same band back again because they seem to be popular. The band will be discussed in greater detail at a future meeting when Polus will be available to give his input.

7. **Discussion re: Veterans Day donation list.**

Rosemary Desisles provided lists to members so they can make calls to find out what offers will be made to veterans so the list can be published in the newspaper. Koslowski stated that this needs to be a joint effort with the VFW and Desisles should work with the VFW on this. Desisles stated the lists should be called as soon as possible so the results can be brought back to the next meeting. She continued that the Press Gazette needs to have the list by November 4 and the other newspapers need to have the list by the last week in October. Koslowski stated that last year the VFW called up the newspapers to advertise the event and were told by the newspapers that the event was already being advertised by Brown County and the VFW was not able to give any input into what was advertised. Desisles stated that if anyone has any problems with their contacts they should let her know as soon as possible. She provided her phone number and will also send her e-mail address to the Subcommittee members. It was also noted that on September 1 about 29 letters were sent out by County Board staff to the businesses that need a 60 day notice. To date Desisles has only received one response to those letters. She is hopeful that all the businesses that donate gift cards will mail them to her. Erickson noted that he may be able to help pick up gift cards if necessary.

Desisles also asked about the thank you certificates to give to businesses who donate and Koslowski stated it was a generic form that Jerry Polus's office has. If there are any new businesses solicited, a certificate can be made.

Witkowski stated that he was previously president of the 20 Year Military Club in Marinette. He shared his thoughts regarding the Subcommittee's participation in the November 11 activities at the VFW. He noted that if he was a VFW member or the president he would not allow this Subcommittee to be there. He stated that years of being okay should not be considered an open invitation. Veterans do not come to the November 11 breakfast to get a free prize; they come for an old fashioned mess hall breakfast and togetherness which gives them a feeling of strength. Many veterans come early for breakfast and do not wait around for the radio show and prizes. The VFW sells their paddles as a fundraiser starting early and this is their day to have a big breakfast and sell paddles to make it more enjoyable. Witkowski continued that if the Subcommittee continues to participate, we should have the prize drawings early, beginning at 8:30 am and continuing every half hour until the prizes are gone. He felt it would save a lot of congestion and confusion. He did not believe the Subcommittee should have a 15' by 15' space when the VFW needs the space for their programs. Witkowski concluded that if he was part of the VFW, he would think it is their day and not this Subcommittee's day. He thought perhaps this Subcommittee could do a different event at a different time of the year as he did not feel this Subcommittee should be interrupting the VFW's activities.

Koslowski recalled that this was discussed a little bit last year and the Subcommittee talked about eliminating the VFW event and expanding the Fair event with some of the larger prizes. Erickson stated that the Veterans Appreciation Day at the Fair went very well and the number of prizes was good.

8. **Report from CVSO Jerry Polus.**

This item was eliminated from the agenda; see Item 3 above.

9. **Comments from Carl Soderberg.**

Soderberg reported that the Oconto Fly-In will be held on September 19, 2015 from 9:00 am. – 5:00 pm and will featuring the EAA warbird "Badger Squadron Six". The event will also include a car and tractor show, vendors, crafters, artisans, food and an opening ceremony honoring Veterans. Admission is $5.00.

Soderburg continued that at 11:00 am on September 26, 2015 Marion will be dedicating their Veterans Memorial. He noted that northern Waupaca County veteran activities have been poorly attended in the past but they have made a big membership swing and are now filling up.

Soderberg concluded by reporting that the traveling Vietnam Wall will be in Edgar, Wisconsin from September 23 – 27. Information on this was distributed to the group and a copy of the same is attached. He noted that the key note speaker at the closing ceremony is Amber Nikolai and she is very enjoyable to listen to.

10. **Report from Committee Members Present (Erickson, Desisles, Haskins, Geiser, Koslowski, Maino, Pierce, Rosinski & Witkowski).**

-Erickson thanked the Subcommittee for their efforts on the Fair event.

-Desisles did not have anything to add other than what she brought forward above.

-Haskins shared an article on mementos left at the Vietnam Wall. One of the most well-known objects is a custom made motorcycle left on Memorial Day, 1995 by a Vietnam veteran from Wisconsin. The cycle was created to remember 37 soldiers from Wisconsin who were POWs or MIA. Haskins also read a short article about John Kerry who was to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor but did not because of post war comments.

-Koslowski reported that he has been working with Bill Kerker of the VA in Milwaukee on a Facebook group, Green Bay West High Veterans. This is a social, non-fundraising, non-donation group and he wanted then Subcommittee to be aware of the purpose of the group.

-Pierce reported that on September 17, 2015 at 4:30 pm there will be an Agent Orange seminar put on by the Vietnam Vets of America at the Yacht Club. On September 18 at 7:00 pm at the POW flagpole at the Courthouse (Jefferson Street side) the Vietnam Vets will hold a candlelight POW ceremony. Pierce also noted that the Amvets post is doing a white clover sale at the Packer game on Sunday. He also mentioned that September 27 is Gold Star Mother's Day. This is a day for people to recognize and honor those who have lost a son or daughter while serving in the United States Armed Forces. Pierce continued that Rolling Thunder will be holding a flag burning ceremony at the Little River Inn in Lena and he noted that October 17 marks the beginning of his 12th year with Rolling Thunder. Pierce concluded that he was part of the 911 ceremony where Debra Grassman spoke. Her organization presents an award every year. For the first time this year, the award was given to two people, and Tracy Rosinski was one of the recipients.

-Witkowski shared a picture from the newspaper with the Subcommittee.

11. **Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law.**

Although shown in the proper format here, this item was taken following Item 4.

Erickson stated that currently the meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month at 5:00 pm. Beginning with the October meeting, the start time of the meeting will be at 4:30 pm. Erickson said that we will try this through the end of the year and if it is not working out the Subcommittee can revisit this.

12. **Adjourn.**

Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Rosemary Desisles to adjourn at 5:37 pm. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Loehlein	Therese Giannunzio
Recording Secretary	Transcriptionist

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE August 24, 2015

Traveling Vietnam Wall
Edgar celebrates our veterans

As a tribute to all veterans, the town of Edgar, Wisconsin, will host the Traveling Vietnam Wall this September. To honor the bravery and sacrifice that our men and women of the armed forces make every day to keep our country free, the Traveling Vietnam Wall will come from Washington, D.C. to be displayed at Edgar High School, 203 E. Birch Street, from **September 23rd through September 27th.**

Having the Traveling Vietnam Wall, which has traveled across the United States, in Edgar allows citizens, who may not have the opportunity to travel to the nation's capitol, to see a replica of this moving national monument and pay their respects to friends, loved ones, and the citizen soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice. Hosting the Wall on school grounds will allow students a unique learning experience.

The agenda for the Traveling Vietnam Wall is:

Wednesday, September 23, 2015
Motorcade escort into Edgar at noon and setting up the wall (football practice field)
Taps and Candle Light Vigil starting at 6:00 PM hosted by St. John's Catholic Church of Edgar

Thursday, September 24, 2015
Opening ceremony from 9:30 AM -10:30 AM in the Edgar High School gym, with DVA Secretary John Scocos, as the keynote speaker.
The Traveling Vietnam Wall open to the public starting at 8:00 AM
Taps and Candle Light Vigil at 6:00 PM (TBA)

Friday, September 25, 2015
The Traveling Vietnam Wall open to the public starting at 8:00 AM
Taps and Candle Light Vigil at 6:00 PM (TBA)

Saturday, September 26, 2015
The Traveling Vietnam Wall open to the public starting at 8:00 AM
Edgar Choir will perform starting at 6pm, up to the fireworks!
Taps and Fireworks beginning at dusk. Fireworks provided by Fireworks Country of Wittenberg

Sunday, September 27, 2015
Open to the public starting at 8:00 AM
Closing ceremony at 2:30 PM in the Edgar High School gymnasium featuring Amber Nikolai, Public Relations Director, WI Veterans Home at King as the keynote speaker.

For more information contact Colin Hanson at 715-560-8933 or noshansniloc@hotmail.com.