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, August 16, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

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

**Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1730

1. **Call Meeting to Order.**

   The meeting was called to order by Chair Bernie Erickson at 4:30 pm.

2. **Invocation.**

3. **Approve/Modify Agenda.**

   Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Duane Pierce to modify the agenda by moving Item 11 to follow Item 4. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. **Approve/Modify Minutes of July 19, 2016.**

   Motion made by Duane Pierce, seconded by Joe Witkowski to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

   Although shown in the proper format here, Jim Belongia spoke on Item 11 at this time.

5. **Budget Status Financial Report, June 2016.**

   Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Duane Pierce to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. **Update re: Honor Rewards Program.**

   Register of Deeds Cathy Williquette explained the Honor Rewards program. Currently there are 74 businesses signed up for the program and veterans with appropriate identification can go to any participating business to receive special offers and discounts. Veterans can get an Honor Rewards identification card by going to www.HonorRewards.com and requesting it. To date 122 cards have been issued and there are 17 more waiting for approval. Williquette continued that a number of veterans were signed up recently at the Pearly Gates ride and she will also have staff at the Fair to sign up veterans.

   CVSO Jerry Polus said he would like to follow up with businesses in De Pere, Ashwaubenon, Allouez, Howard and Suamcio because there has not been a great number of businesses from those areas that have signed up. Erickson can help Polus with this after the Fair. Polus would like to see the number of offers grow and he will work on this after the Fair.

7. **Possible Discussion re: 2016 Veterans' Appreciation Day at the Brown County Fair.**

   a) 25th Anniversary of Desert Storm.
   b) Fair Agenda.

Erickson showed the group the dog tags that will be distributed at the Fair and gave one to everyone at the meeting.

Jim Haskins, Duane Pierce and Ed Koslowski went to the last Fair Board meeting and walked around the grounds to decide on the layout. Pierce noted Koslowski wanted a place on the agenda to present gift cards to the singer, the people playing Taps and the Chaplain. Polus said he and Erickson had talked about that and did not feel it was something that should be on the agenda. After this was discussed further, it was decided that if Koslowski felt strongly about this, the gift cards would have to come out of his own pocket and be presented at some time other than during the ceremony. Pierce will relay this to Koslowski. Erickson also noted that John Hoes wanted to be on the agenda but Erickson was not agreeable to that either as the agenda had already been set. Polus went over the agenda one more time to be sure that everyone is on the same page. The groups who will be setting up tables in the tent will start arriving by 9:00 am so they will be ready by 10:00 am. Erickson will kick the ceremony off by reading the declaration and he will also read the certificate before they are distributed. Polus will bring a few copies of the agenda as well as the sign up forms for the veterans' certificates. Haskins said that cookies and lemonade will be provided again this year.

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

Polus noted he had recently visited Congressman Reid Ribble's office and was able to meet the staff who were all very nice. He did not have anything else to report.

9. **Comments from Carl Soderberg.**

Soderberg reported that someone from Polus's office has been approved by the committee panel for a job in Marinette County. Polus informed that Tom Doyle of his office had the opportunity to apply for a CVSO position in Marinette County. He said Doyle has done an outstanding job in Brown County and although he hates to lose him, Polus gave him a very high recommendation and Doyle will be starting his CVSO job in Marinette County following Labor Day. Soderberg added that he has heard nothing but good things about Doyle.

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

-Erickson did not have anything to add other than what had already been discussed.

-Haskins reported that he had recently attended the Iola Car Show. He talked about the Cruise of Honor sponsored by the show and the Veterans Home in King. Veterans from King are taken by golf carts around the car show to see the displays. This is done twice a day and people are encouraged to clap for the veterans as the golf carts come through. Haskins said it is a neat event and they do it every year.

Haskins also said he recently attended a welcome home meeting for veterans at the Veterans' Clinic in Green Bay. There was free food and Veterans' Affairs was there to help veterans sign up for healthcare and other programs. Haskins said it was a very nice event with good attendance. He also said the Veterans' Center will be holding their booyah sale on September 10.

Haskins also noted he was at the Military Appreciation Night at the Green Bay Blizzard game. All of the veterans in attendance received a very nice shirt and were recognized during the game. He said this was a very nice event and he is glad that he went.

-Pierce reminded the group about the POW candlelight ceremony that will be held at the POW/MIA flagpole at the courthouse beginning at 7:00 pm on September 16. He said people will start arriving around 6:00 pm to get a candle. This event was very well attended in the past and he is hoping for the same this year.

-Witkowski said he would like to acknowledge the special gift that John Hoes and Karen Stoehr gave to the Community and this was the display that they brought in from Neillsville. Witkowski said it was absolutely more than he anticipated and if there were any awards for citizen of the year, he would submit their names for this project. The first display was 135 photographs of people from Wisconsin who were killed in action. The second display was military boots that are no longer filled by soldiers because they did not come home. Witkowski said the display was very impressive and there was a lot of work and planning that went into the event. He helped on July 2

and 9. He said that George Washington was there and presented Purple Hearts. Witkowski also said they did a very touching table ceremony that he narrated. He noted there was a substantial expense involved in this and Hoes and Stoehr did a very good job coordinating everything. The Mayor attended and there were also speakers from Oneida. Witkowski was glad he was part of this event because it was a wonderful, wonderful event put on by only two people. Haskins said that he also attended the event and agreed that it was very, very nice. Erickson suggested that Witkowski contact the Volunteer Center to fill out forms for Stoehr and Hoes to be recognized

11. **Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law. None.**

Jim Belongia introduced himself to the Subcommittee. He was a teacher at Green Bay East for 31 years and has recently retired. He is very proud that he was part of the City Stadium renovation project and has always wanted to showcase the stadium. He is very patriotic and felt that a great way to show off City Stadium would be to have a run honoring veterans and raising money for veterans. The City Stadium Run for Veterans is in its fifth year and this year's event will take place on September 10, 2016 beginning at 8:00 am, see attached. In the past proceeds raised were given to various organization that help wounded soldiers, however, Belongia wanted to make it very clear that this is not associated in any way with the Wounded Warrior Project. This event typically generates $7,000 - $10,000 and proceeds of this year's event will benefit the Brown County Veterans Treatment Court which was started by former Sheriff Tom Hinz and is presided over by Judge Kelley. Veterans Court helps veterans who find themselves in legal trouble which is associated with injuries or conditions that are a result of being a veteran. Each veteran in the Veterans Court is assigned a mentor and proceeds from the City Stadium Run will be used to train mentors.

Belongia continued that this year's special guest will be former UWGB and Wisconsin basketball coach Dick Bennett. Belongia receives compliments every year on the course which utilizes three pedestrian parks and trails. The finish line is at the 50 yard line of City Stadium. Each participant will receive a tee shirt with their registration along with a wristband and a dog tag. Belongia asked if this Subcommittee would like to get involved in some capacity. He said that Dick Bennet will be at the finish line and he would really like to have veterans in uniforms at the finish line to high five participants as they finish. He also provided information for people to put out at various locations advertising the run. Belongia also talked about some skydivers that come down into the stadium at the end of the run.

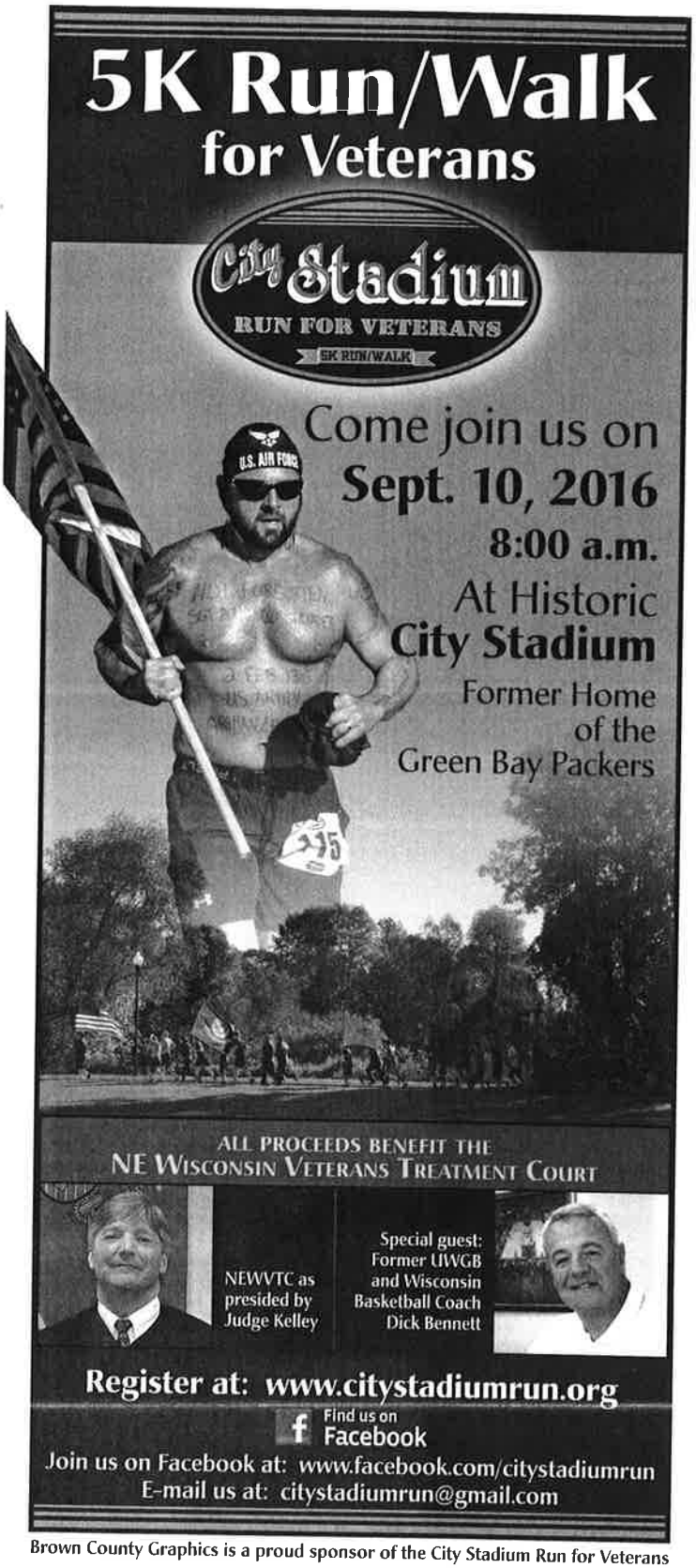
Register of Deeds Cathy Williquette asked Belongia if he would like to have someone at the event to promote the Honor Rewards program. After explaining the program to Belongia, he said that he would like to have someone on hand during the time that run participants pick up their packets the night before the run.

12. **Adjourn.**

Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Duane Pierce to adjourn at 5:29 pm. Vote taken. <u>MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</u>

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Recording Secretary



Brown County Graphics is a proud sponsor of the City Stadium Run for Veterans