**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, May 15, 2018 at 4:30 pm in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

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**PRESENT:** Chair Erickson, Ed Koslowski, Ken Corry, Louise Dahlke, Duane Pierce
**EXCUSED:** Jerry Polus, Joan Brusky, Kerry Metoxen

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1. **Call Meeting to Order.**

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

2. **Approve/Modify Agenda.**

   **Motion made by Ed Koslowski, seconded by Duane Pierce to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. **Approve/Modify Minutes of April 17, 2018.**

   **Motion made by Louise Dahlke, seconded by Ed Koslowski to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. **Budget Status Financial Report for December, 2017 (Unaudited).**

   **Motion made by Duane Pierce, seconded by Ed Koslowski to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

5. **Budget Status Financial Report for March, 2018.**

   **Motion made by Duane Pierce, seconded by Louise Dahlke to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

   *In the absence of CVSO Jerry Polus, no report was given.*

7. **Discussion re: 2018 Veterans' Appreciation Day at the Brown County Fair.**

   Louise Dahlke informed she has been contacted by the Fair and advised that another act has been scheduled for the same time as the veterans' ceremony. That act will take place in the grassy area just east of the veterans' tent and will require bleachers to be set up and a microphone and speakers to be used. Dahlke asked for this group's thoughts regarding changing the time of the veterans' ceremony so as not to compete with the other event. The Subcommittee discussed this and said it would depend on whether the posters and tickets have already been printed with the time. Koslowski noted he cannot mail the postcards to the veterans' groups until the time of the ceremony is set. Dahlke noted that most of the veterans' ceremony takes place under the tent and it sounds like the tent will be located in the same area as in the past. Pierce suggested putting the stage on the other side of the tent if the weather cooperates to give some distance between the other event. The decision was made to keep the veterans' ceremony at 3:00 pm.

   Dahlke also talked about the banners and noted it seems we have to change the dates every year. She said if this group does not mind having a small Pepsi logo on them, Dean Distributing will make the banners year after year

at no charge. Dahlke said to let her know what information should be on the banners, what sizes and how many are needed and she will work with the Fair to get them printed.

Dahlke also informed that Jim Haskins attended the last Fair Board meeting and indicated he has made arrangements with the same person who sang the National Anthem last year to sing it this year as well. It was noted that Haskins also informed the County Board Office that he has arranged for Jess to sing the National Anthem.

Erickson noted that he will be stopping at all of the local reserve centers to drop posters and tickets off and he will make them all aware of the event and that it will be honoring National Guard members and reservists. He said he will try to get to the reserve centers before he starts distributing posters and tickets to allow them to possibly schedule their drill weekends in a manner to allow attendance at the Fair event.

Erickson also talked about the dog tags he will be ordering and said he will order 200 of them. He would like to have the Brown County 200th anniversary logo on one side of the dog tags and then language on the other side which says "Honoring All Reservists and National Guard, Past and Present" or something similar.

8. **Discussion re: Possibility of holding a Veterans' Fair midway through the year.**

Erickson recalled that Joan Brusky brought this up at the last meeting. She has contacted the Packers about the possibility of holding a Veterans' Fair at Lambeau Field in conjunction with their 100th Season Anniversary. Brusky heard back from the Packers who indicated they would have to see how it may work into their schedule. This can be discussed further at the next meeting when Brusky will be in attendance.

Ken Corry, Outreach and Recovery Regional Coordination of VORP noted that he is also planning an event to bring awareness to the community of some of the services available to veterans in conjunction with the Booyah Bash at the Vets Center which will be sometime in July. Corry said this is probably something we should look at more for 2019 because it takes time to put something like this together so it is nice.

9. **Discussion re: Future plans for transitional housing for veterans.**

Erickson noted that at one time Cardinal Management wanted to add some veteran housing, but he does not know the current status of that. This will be put on the next agenda so we can get an update from Jerry Polus.

Corry said there is a possibility of 8 – 10 beds for veterans coming into Bellevue through the Veterans Housing and Recovery Program and this would be for homeless veterans or those with substance abuse issues or other challenges who are trying to get back into the community. The State of Wisconsin would have a place for them to stay. Work would be done collaboratively with CVSO offices, shelters, and the VA Hospital and the State.

10. **Report from CVSO Jerry Polus.**

*In the absence of CVSO Jerry Polus, no report was given.*

11. **Reports from Committee Members Present (Erickson, Brusky, Dahlke, Haskins, Koslowski, Pierce).**

-Erickson did not have anything further to report.

-Dahlke did not have anything further to report.

-Koslowski informed the lighted sign trailer that was donated by the Homemakers is in the process of being painted. He questioned where the sign can be stored for other groups to use. This was discussed and Erickson said he can make some calls to see if it could be stored at either Port & Solid Waste or at Public Works. Dahlke asked about the permitting process and Koslowski said it would be up to the organization using the sign to secure the appropriate permit. Erickson said he can work with Corporation Counsel on this to get a hold harmless agreement and an agreement regarding getting the appropriate permit.

-Pierce reported that the annual Veterans Pow Wow will be held in Keshena this weekend. It starts Friday night with a flag raising ceremony at 6:00 pm. The event continues Saturday with Rolling Thunder doing a table ceremony before the grand entrance at 11:00 am and it will continue on Sunday as well. He said it is an awesome event and encouraged people to attend.

Pierce also reported that the traveling wall will be coming to Crivitz over Labor Day Weekend. He said there is a Facebook page called "The Wall That Heals Comes To Crivitz" which will be updated with events and information on a regular basis. The wall will be set up in the Veterans Park just past the railroad tracks.

Pierce concluded by saying the next LZ raffle will be held on June 18 at 5:00 pm at Pearly Gates. Everyone is welcome; it is a good time and a nice evening of veteran camaraderie.

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

Corry introduced Tiffany Koehler to the group. Koehler is the Women Veterans Coordinator at the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs and said she came to the meeting to find out how things are going in Brown County and how the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs could support our veterans and the Secretary's platform who is very committed to making sure all of the troops are well taken care off.

Koehler asked if there were any concerns or questions she could bring back to the Secretary. Koslowski brought up the addition of nursing facilities that the Secretary said are planned for the State and asked Koehler for further information on that. Koehler said she did not know when that project was planned for, but she will find out and let Erickson know. Koslowski noted that Chippewa Falls is already full and Koehler added that there is also a large waiting list. Erickson asked if there was any timeframe for when the VA Clinic in Green Bay would be fully staffed as they are currently behind in some areas, such as mental health. Koehler said she will also look into this and let Erickson know.

Koslowski also said he had heard recently that there was interest in doing fundraising for a Fisher House in Green Bay, but he questioned why that would be necessary when the facility in Green Bay is a clinic and not a hospital so nobody stays overnight. Neither Koslowski nor Koehler has heard anything about changing the VA Clinic into a hospital.

Koehler asked about the challenges that face veterans in Brown County for things like travel. Pierce indicated that the DAV does a lot of transportation.

Koslowski also asked about the VORP program Corry is involved in. Corry said the program deals not only with the veterans, but also their families. The housing he was talking about earlier is for single veterans, not families. Koslowski pointed out there is no transitional living facility in Brown County for veterans to go where they can also bring their family. Corry said there is not a single place dedicated specifically for that, but there are some agencies that do help with housing. Koehler agreed that affordable safe and stable housing is a problem across the board, especially for women. She noted there are a few shelters in the Milwaukee area that serve woman, but there are more facilities for men. Koslowski said we have to try to avoid the scenario where people are not seeking help because they fear their children will be taken away if they admit to being homeless.

13. **Adjourn.**

**Motion made by Duane Pierce, seconded by Ed Koslowski to adjourn at 5:34 pm. Vote taken. <u>MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</u>**

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Administrative Specialist