

MINUTES
PLACENTIA VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 3, 2025
PLACENTIA COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 4:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Present: Meredith Castillo, Pat Alvarez, Ron Culler,
Paul Henderson, Jeffery Brockmeier, Bob Jones, James Burandt-Nair

Absent: Neel Schmitt

Staff Present: Captain Brian Perry, Lieutenant Tom McKenzie and Kelley Krahling

Guests: Council Member Ward Smith, Craig Green

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – Kelley Krahling informed the Committee of the upcoming Centennial Celebration for the 100th Birthday of Placentia and the need for a representative from the Veterans Advisory Committee for the Steering Committee. Paul Henderson volunteered to undertake the position and was given the application to complete and return to Kelley to be forwarded to the Centennial Committee.

MINUTES – **MOTION** by Chair Meredith Castillo to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2024, regular meeting. **SECOND** by Pat Alvarez. Approved.

2024 VETERANS DAY OBSERVANCE PROGRAM –

Pat Alvarez went over the MIA/POA table and discussed that TAPS should NOT be played after the MIA/POA observance, but BEFORE it. Kelley Krahling will make the change in the Program for the 2025 ceremony.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES –

- James Burandt-Nair asked about renaming a park for Veterans. Discussion about possible doing one at Veterans Village and restoring the original ‘Veterans Park’ area and fountain.
- James Burandt-Nair suggested developing a feedback loop for Veterans needs in the city. Ward Smith suggested having a booth at every City event to better promote the Advisory Committee and encourage Veterans to participate. Lt. McKenzie suggested creating a placencia.org email to get Veterans requests for needs. Lt. McKenzie will follow through with IT department and getting it set up.

- Bob Jones suggested having a Tri-Fold that has information about what Veterans Advisory Committee does, its history, resource information. Capt. Perry suggested including the history of the Committee, the goals and purpose of the Committee and pictures of the monument.
- Chair Meredith Castillo asked to have Craig Green as an official member of the Veterans Advisory Committee.
- Ward Smith informed the Committee that Neel Schmitt officially resigned from the Committee on November 11th, 2024. He forwarded the resignation letter from Neel to Lt. McKenzie and Kelley Krahling.
- Captain Perry said the Committee needs to hold the elections at the next meeting for Chair and Vice Chair. He also said he would see if he could forward the process of having Craig Green appointed to the Committee at the upcoming council meeting.
- Captain Perry suggested starting preparations for the 2025 Veterans Day Ceremony as soon as possible. He informed that Aiden Garza has volunteered to play Taps again. Ward Smith will reach out to Mark Toy from the Water District for Guest Speaker. Capt. Perry wants to keep set up the same, with the banners behind the stage, student choirs, and student speakers. He also suggested having the Choir Directors come to the May meeting to select the songs for this year.
- Ward Smith will work on getting a 501(c)(3) for the Committee.
- Captain Perry wants to do a big push out for the banners this year, with a goal of getting 40 new banners. Promote on the Placentia Buzz.
- James Burandt-Nair suggested coming up with a Mission & Vision statement for the Committee. Everyone will bring their ideas for it to the next meeting.
- Ward Smith wants to invite the new Ms. Placentia & Ms. Outstanding Teen to one of the meetings.

STAFF COMMENTS – None.

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business, a **MOTION** by Chair Meredith Castillo to adjourn at 4:56 p.m. on Monday, February 3, 2024; **SECOND** by Vice Chair Pat Alvarez. The meeting adjourned on February 3, 2024, at 4:56 p.m. The next meeting is to be held on March 3, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

Lieutenant Tom McKenzie, Staff Liaison
Veterans Advisory Committee