



# City of Doral Military Affairs Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

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Tuesday, August 1, 2023  
6:00 p.m.  
Doral Government Center  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor Multipurpose Room  
8401 NW 53<sup>rd</sup> Terrace  
Doral, FL 33166

## 1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

## 2. Roll Call of Board Members

William 'Bill' Watts, Chair	Present
Christopher Flynn, Secretary	Present
Ricardo 'Rich' Bautista, Board Member	Absent
Alvaro Ferrando, Board Member	Present
Isabel Martin, Alternate Member	Present

### Staff present:

Edgard Estrada, Director, Code Compliance

### Public present:

Mark Pinilla, President of Vet Info  
Samantha Pinilla, resident  
Isabel Pinilla, resident  
Nerissa James, resident  
Urania Archer, resident

## 3. Pledge of Allegiance

## 4. Public Comments

Ms. Nerissa James, Doral resident, introduced a golf program designed for veterans, that is sponsored by the County. As a Doral resident, Ms. James is interested if Doral courses could be engaged in this program or support something similar. Ms. James

provided her notes, attached page 4, and program flyer, attached page 5.

Mr. Mark Pinilla spoke about the Southern Command event that Vet Info organized, included kayaking and fishing, involving veterans and their families. Vet Info is interested in holding classes for transitioning veterans, like transition assistance for military members go through before they leave service, but as a direct service program compared to awareness program offered before departing the military.

## **5. Approval of Minutes**

### **a. April 4, 2023**

**Motion to approve the April 4 meeting minutes** made by Member Ferrando and seconded by Member Martin. By consensus, motion passes unanimously.

## **6. Discussion Items**

### **a. Family Day Event**

Intent to hold event on Veteran's Day, Saturday, November 11. Date is subjective to City planned events for the day and ability to get sponsors that may otherwise be engaged in other services for veterans. Change of venue is requested, hold the event back at Glades, held in 2021. Parking, parking fees, space set-up, lake availability, seclusion/privacy are pluses for holding at Glades. Negative side effects were placement of fire truck, blood donation bus, placement of police motorcycles and FWC, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation, equipment.

Preferred park is Glades, backup Downtown park, use of City parking garage will need to be requested, as parking meters now installed directly around the park.

Secretary Flynn will gather previous years' vendor lists, vendor letter, other pertinent information for vendor participation. Will reach out to Mr. Pinilla on advertising at Glades Park for the event.

### **b. Health Fair for Veterans**

The Board has an interest in holding a health fair, veteran focused but open for all. Intent to hold early in the new year, possibly March, a Spring health fair.

## **7. Open Discussion**

Chair Watts posed the question to staff whether Alternate Member Isabel Martin would be appointed as full member, or if the Board would need to vote her as a full member. Mr. Estrada will ask the question and give a response back to Chair Watts.

**Motion to hold vote of Vice Chair** until next meeting, or at least when the Board has full staff, made by Secretary Flynn and seconded by Member Alvaro.

Mr. Estrada provided update from Public Affairs about the Military Tribute Banners. Past campaign was launched in June 2021, banners were in place for Veterans Day 2022, stayed until Memorial Day 2023. Each banner cost \$159, sponsors received banners after they were taken down. City spent \$490 for installation and removal of banners. 7 banners were purchased, 5 had to be reprinted due to weather. Previous campaign, 14 were purchased and 7 had to be replaced due to weather.

## **8. Discussion of Next Meeting Agenda Items**

Discussion items under review for the next regular meeting. Item a. will be primary topic of discussion at requested Special Meeting.

- a. Family Day Event, November 11
- b. Vice Chair nominations and vote
- c. Board member fills
- d. Golf Program interest, public comments topic of August 1 meeting

9. **Next Meeting:** Regular Meeting, November 7, 6:00 p.m. Special Meeting requested, September 5, 6:00 p.m.

**Motion to hold special meeting on September 5** made by Secretary Flynn and seconded by Member Alvaro.

### 10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourns at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher Flynn, Secretary

Motion to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2023, Military Affairs Advisory Board Meeting made by Board Member Rich Bautista and seconded by Board Member Christopher Flynn

William 'Bill' Watts, Chair

Christopher Flynn, Secretary

Ricardo 'Rich' Bautista, Member

Alvaro Ferrando, Member

Isabel e Martin

APPROVED and ADOPTED this 19 day of September 2023.



ICM



William 'Bill' Watts, Chair

I recently learned about the county's golf program and was wondering whether the city of Doral could possibly encourage public golf courses to adopt a similar program. This could potentially increase interest in golf and provide more opportunities for individuals to become involved in the sport. While I am unsure of the process required to initiate this program, I believe it would be worthwhile to explore the possibility further.

Similar programs: PGA Hope  
Operation game On

**Tee it up with the troops:**

**Golf Intervention for Veterans- USC Division of Biokinesiology and Therapy:**

Golfing benefits:

1. Can also help improve mental health
2. Long lasting effects of combat
3. Mental health: reducing anxiety
4. physical health: cognitive challenges
5. adaptive sports and recreation opportunities for veterans with injuries and have rehabilitative benefits
6. walking and standing ability, balance, strength and cognitive processing
- 7.
8. social skills.
9. Struggling with mental illness
10. Vets can connect with each other

Golf will help veterans heal from both visible and invisible wound.



The Miami-Dade County Parks Golf Division in conjunction with the Miami VA Healthcare System is proud to offer OEF/OIF veterans who have served in the combat theater (AOE) of either "Operation Enduring Freedom" or "Operation Iraqi Freedom", and are current residents of Miami-Dade County, the recreational opportunity to learn and play the game of golf at no charge through the "America's Heroes Golf Program". This offering includes free golf lessons, free use of golf equipment and facilities, and free greens and golf cart fees at four Miami-Dade County public golf courses.

All interested OEF/OIF combat veterans must register and meet eligibility criteria. Once you have been certified eligible for the golf program, you will be notified of program procedures and facilities availability.

### Participating Golf Courses:

#### 18 Hole:

Palmetto Golf Course, located in South Dade at the intersection of US 1 and Coral Reef Drive

Country Club of Miami's East and West courses, located on Miami Gardens Drive in western North Dade

#### 9 Hole:

Greynolds Park Golf Course, located adjacent to Miami Gardens Drive in North Miami Beach

Briar Bay Golf Club, located in South Dade at the intersection of SW 93<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and SW 134<sup>th</sup> Street

#### Program includes:

Golf lessons (held at Country Club of Miami and Palmetto Golf Course)

Use of golf equipment and facilities

Green fees

Golf cart fees