



City of Doral Military Affairs Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 19, 2023
6:00 p.m.
Doral Government Center
1st Floor Multipurpose Room
8401 NW 53rd 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	Present
Alvaro Ferrando, Board Member	Absent
Isabel Martin, Alternate Member	Present

Staff present:

Edgard Estrada, Director, Code Compliance
Erin Sullivan, Director, Parks & Recreation

Public present:

Mark Pinilla, President of Vet Info
Isabel Pinilla, Volunteer Services of Vet Info

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Public Comments

Chair Watts discussed his visit to Washington, D.C., as sitting member of the Department of Veterans Affairs Research Advisory Committee and Sub-Committee for Gulf War Illness.

5. Approval of Minutes

a. August 1, 2023

Motion to approve the August 1 meeting minutes made by Member Bautista and seconded by Secretary Flynn. By consensus, motion passes unanimously.

6. Discussion Items

a. Family Day Event

Initial discussion concerned board member invites to the Veteran's Day Event ceremony. Continued discussion on the pros and cons of holding the Family Day Event in conjunction with or separated from the Veteran's Day Event. Erin Sullivan, Parks Director, was on hand to discuss various scenarios and answer questions. One concern in using Glades Park was ant hills encountered during the Family Day Event 2021. The Parks Director said staff can spray.

One discussed scenario was to hold a morning breakfast in conjunction with the Veteran's Day Event, as an alternative to the Family Day Event lunch. Final alternative to separate the events but still have a breakfast or breakfast snacks at the Veteran's Day Event. Ms. Sullivan expressed concern that in conjunction, the Veteran's Day Event invites the open public while the Family Day Event is aimed at active duty, veterans, and family.

Veteran's Park capacity, parking availability, and traffic remain a concern holding a large, anticipated event, such as the Family Day Event.

Ms. Sullivan will check Glades Park availability, set-up to tear down from 10am to 3pm, lunch from 11am to 2pm, on November 18, the weekend after Veteran's Day. The Board will be present at the Veteran's Day Event. Vet Info, with support from the Board, will provide breakfast snacks at the Veteran's Day Event, and announce the Family Day Event to be held the following weekend at Glades Park.

City staff and Board members will start outreach to vendors. Board members discuss main vendor for food, and at recommendation from Ms. Sullivan, agree on Texas Roadhouse on Flagler in Miami. The city will contact. Recommendation is 150-person order, pulled pork sandwiches and/or burgers, steak fries.

Previous year's vendor's list is reviewed, identifying city outreach to Board members. Attached spreadsheet of potential vendors and outreach.

Member Martin would like to involve a local animal shelter to bring adoptable animals, provide emotional support adoptions for zero to minimal costs to veterans. She can also reach out to Mount Sinai Hospital to possibly bring a psychologist to talk about post-traumatic stress disorder and family support measures, provide general public information.

Parks will work with Public Affairs to use same flyer, update the date and time, and start advertising, will include City website, calendar event, and Eventbrite.

Coordination between Secretary Flynn, Vet Info, and Parks.

Discussion of registration and invitations, use Eventbrite and same registration as previous years. Advertising needs to start early, immediately, as Board members noted previous years advertising started late, that actual attendance was low compared to anticipated attendance.

Discussion of Chaplain to be present, staple of veteran events, possibly from the City, US Southern Command, the local VA hospital, or from Doral Police Department.

Discussion of special made t-shirt for Members for Family Day. Chair Watts and Vet Info will review and research vendors and cost, discuss with City Public Affairs on using authorized City logo.

b. Vice Chair Selection

Edgard Estrada informed the Board that the Mayor is reviewing possible new

members, no selection at this time.

Motion to hold selection of Vice Chair until next meeting made by Secretary Flynn and seconded by Member Bautista. The selection of Vice Chair will be discussed again at the next Board meeting.

c. Golf Program

General discussion to bring veteran centered golf events or veteran therapy golf programs to one of Doral's two golf courses.

Secretary Flynn notes aim to lesson impact of costs or fees to veterans, for the course to possibly identify times or days for veterans to play at minimal or discounted costs. Member Martin will reach out to Trump National Doral and Costa del Sol for possibilities, Chair Watts will reach out to Topgolf for possible events.

d. Added discussion: Bricks for Veteran's Park

Introduced discussion to continue adding personalized bricks to Veteran's Park. Secretary Flynn will research possible vendors and reach out to American Legion in Miami Lakes and Hialeah, that have parks with the brick program.

7. Discussion of Next Meeting Agenda Items

- a. Family Day Event, November 18
- b. Vice Chair selection

8. Next Meeting: Regular Meeting, November 7, 6:00 p.m. Special Meeting requested, October 10, 6:00 p.m.

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourns at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher Flynn, Secretary

Motion to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2023, Military Affairs Advisory Board Meeting made by Board Member Alvaro Ferrando and seconded by Board Member. Isabel Martin.

- William 'Bill' Watts, Chair
- Christopher Flynn, Secretary
- Ricardo 'Rich' Bautista, Member
- Alvaro Ferrando, Member
- ISABEL MARTIN







APPROVED and ADOPTED this 23rd day of October 2023.


 William 'Bill' Watts, Chair

Veterans Day/Family Day

Glades Park | November 18, 2023 | 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Event Logistics Detail								
Tent #	Vendors	Tent	Tables	Chairs	Needs Power	Addl. Notes	2023 Outreach	Notes
1	New York Life	1	1	2	0	Donated Chips and Snacks	city	
2	Miami VA Suicide Prevention, LPOP, Vet Info.	1	1	2	0	informational vendor	Bill	
2	Mount Sinai Hospital PTSD information	0	1	2	0	informational vendor	Isabel	new outreach for 2023, request hospital staff, information, same tent as VA Suicide Prevention
3	Smoothie King	1	1	2	1	Food Samples	Rich	Include Planet Smoothie
4	Caballero Rivero Funeral Homes	1	1	2	0	Donated Plates, Napkins, Cups, Utensils	Eventbrite/ city	
5	Military Affairs Advisory Board, sign-in, Toys for Tots	1	1	3	0	Registration/Check in & Collecting Toys	Eventbrite/ board	request for toys on Eventbrite, provide to Marines after
6	Miami Vet Center	1	1	2	0	informational vendor	Bill	
7	Tequenomania	1	2	3	1	Food Samples	Rich	reached out, waiting response
8	Florida Dept. of Veterans Affairs	1	1	2	0	informational vendor	Bill	
9	Geico	1	1	2	0	Pizza, Water & Informational Vendor	VetInfo	discuss possible monetary donation for event t-shirts
10	Shake-a-leg					informational vendor	VetInfo	
11	Florida Fish & Wildlife					Brought air boat/ information	VetInfo	
12	Local pet adoption agency w/animals	1	1	2	1	Provide low/no cost emotional support adoptions to veterans	Isabel	new outreach for 2023, unknown table or power requirements
-	Bass Pro (donated raffle items)					Donated raffle items	VetInfo	
Under Pavillion	Winn Dixie	0	2	0	0	Catered Food	city/Parks	
Under Pavillion	Papa Johns	0	1	0	0	Pizza, Water & Informational Vendor	city/Parks	
Under Pavillion	Texas Roadhouse	0	2	0	0	Boxed Lunches	city/Parks	Requested funds order for 150 people, pulled pork sandwich and/or burgers, sides
Under Pavillion	United Martial Arts	0	1	0	0	Donated all 2L Soda	VetInfo/Parks	
Vehicle	OneBlood	0	0	0	0	Provided incentives for blood donations	Bill	
Vehicle	Fire Truck (MDCF #69)	0	0	0	0	Demonstration/ information	Chris	
Vehicle	Doral Police Department Harley's	0	0	0	0	Demonstration/ information	Chris	requested previous years but never added to events list
Personnel	chaplain	0	0	0	0	veteran staple to all events	Bill	request availability from any of the following: City, SouthCom, VA, Doral PD
Grass Area	Dime o 305 (sponsored)	0	0	0	0	DJ- donated services	city/Parks	
Grass Area	Games (Jenga, Dominoes)		1	4	0	Place in grass area	city/Parks	
Grass Area	Cinnamon Stixx	0	0	0	0	inflatables for kids	Rich	Requested funds estimated \$1000+
Total Order		10	19	28	3	new/change for 2023 event		