

City of Doral Military Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

**Monday, September 8, 2025
6:00 p.m.**

**Doral Government Center
3rd Floor Training Room
8401 NW 53rd Terrace
Doral, FL 33166**

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. Roll Call of Board Members

| | |
|---|---------|
| William 'Bill' Watts, Chair | Present |
| William Fitzgerald, Vice Chair | Present |
| Christopher Flynn, Secretary | Present |
| Victor Arroliga, Board Member | Absent |
| Samantha Steen, Board Member | Absent |
| US Southern Command Rep, Alternate Member | Absent |

Staff present:

Edgard Estrada, Director, Code Compliance

Public present:

Nerissa James, Public
Vinicio A. Gonzalez, Public

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Public Comments

Dr. Nerissa James of FIU, a guest of Chair Bill Watts, asked questions and discussed veterans living in Doral and the support the Board conducts to reach out to the veterans.

5. Discussion Items

a. Selection of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary

Nomination of Member Bill Watts for Chair made by Member Flynn and seconded by Member Fitzgerald. By consensus, motion passes unanimously.

Nomination of Member William Fitzgerald for Vice Chair made by Member Flynn and seconded by Chair Watts. By consensus, motion passes unanimously.

Nomination of Member Chris Flynn for Secretary made by Chair Watts and seconded by Vice Chair Fitzgerald. By consensus, motion passes unanimously.

b. Veteran's Family Day Event

Secretary Flynn will reach out to VetInfo and Mark Pinilla and send list of last year's names, vendors, both regular businesses and health fair, to start outreach in time for potential date set for Sunday, November 2, 2025.

Chair Watts recommended for-profit businesses to help with overall costs of Family Day. The intent is buy-in for tent/table, cost to be determined. Recommended table between \$250 and \$500. City requests Board send email to City Attorney for council and recommendation.

Secretary Flynn to prepare Board Memo to City Clerk by September 17, for Chair or Vice Chair to present Family Day proposal to City Council on October 8.

The use of Glade Park has been unofficially approved, for November 2, with a budget of \$5,000. Request DJ, food. Chair Watts has already reached out to MISSION BBQ for 250 meals, 2 people for serving, and use of the Big Truck for display. Request for City to out to Little Caesars for 15-20 pizzas, same as last year. Chair Watts has also reached out to Jersey Mike's to donate 10 giant sandwiches as samplers.

Secretary Flynn to prepare and submit request for MD Fire Rescue truck, Pets for Vets truck, Doral Police motorcycles and chaplain for invocation. Chair Watts will reach out to various Miami VA hospital agencies. Additional outreach to Miami Military Trucks for display. VetInfo to display and launch the fishing boat and kayaks. Vice Chair Fitzgerald will reach out to Young Marines for Color Guard and attendance, and Secretary Flynn will reach out to Civil Air Patrol to attend the event. Secretary Flynn to send out artwork to VetInfo with new dates.

Motion to hold special meeting, on September 16, by Secretary Flynn and seconded by Vice Chair Fitzgerald. By consensus, motion passes unanimously. This meeting will be focused on Family Day Event.

c. New Business

Vice Chair Fitzgerald reintroduced intent to rename Veterans Park to Veterans Memorial Park. Board to reach out to Parks Directors and discuss issues or roadblocks.

Noted the Bruce W. Carter Young Marines, resident organization in the City of Doral, would like to Adopt-A-Park, the Veterans Park, and take responsibility for cleaning and caring of the park, similar to the effects of Adopt-A-Street program. No such program exists for the city. **Motion to create a special Adopt-A-Park committee** by Secretary Flynn and seconded by Chair Watts. By consensus, motion passes unanimously. This committee will consist of Vice Chair Fitzgerald, who will conduct research and outreach to the Parks Director and Deputy Director as part of the feasibility study of enacting and running this program.

Vice Chair Fitzgerald noted the 250th anniversary of the services, particularly the Marine Corps will be honored with 2 formal balls, one by the Marine Corps Element on November 22, and the other at the Eks Club on November 8. Noted that the City of Doral should have a stake in these events as they operate and exist in the City of Doral through the US Southern Command. As the Marine Corps is part of Doral, so

is the US Southern Command. In any military event, the city should always be involved.

Chair Watts expressed interest in continuing effort to open a Veterans of Foreign Wars Doral Post. Previous Vice Chair Ricardo Bautista, who has moved away from Doral, left behind the planning efforts and notes for this Board to continue the effort.

6. Next Meeting: Special Meeting, Tuesday, September 16, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

Regular Meeting: Tuesday, October 7, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourns at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher Flynn, Secretary

Motion to approve the minutes of September 8, 2025, Military Affairs Committee Meeting made by Board Member Fitzgerald and seconded by Board Member



William 'Bill' Watts, Chair

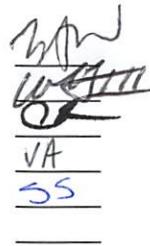
William Fitzgerald, Vice Chair

Christopher Flynn, Secretary

Victor Arroliga, Member

Samantha Steen, Member

_____, Alternate Member



W
W
VA
SS

APPROVED and ADOPTED this 16th day of September 2025.



Bill Watts, Chair