

## **Veteran Services Advisory Board**

Date: January 13, 2025

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: Freedom Community Center, 7340 SW 41 Place, Gainesville, FL 32608

Members Present: George Cooper and John Murdoch

Others Present: JP Dunn, Julian Ancion, Claudia Tuck, Candie Nixon, and Leslie McCurdy

### **1. Welcome and Call Meeting to Order.**

Chair John Murdock welcomes everyone to the meeting.

### **2. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence**

### **3. Quorum Call of Members in Attendance**

Quorum not met.

### **4. Call for Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting(s)**

4.1. September 2024 Minutes - No quorum for approvals. Tabled till next meeting.

4.2. October 2024 Minutes - No quorum for approvals. Tabled till next meeting.

### **5. Advisory Board Report**

#### **5.1. Resolution Update - Resolution 2022-38**

The county attorneys are reviewing the resolution. The proposal is to reduce the board members from seventeen to nine and to focus on at-large members instead of organizations.

#### **5.2. VSAB Vacancies and Appointments**

It is expected that board member Sandra Torres-Pintos will be renewed tomorrow at the Board of County Commissioners meeting.

Director Dunn recommends starting early on the renewal process for this year's expiration for members.

#### **5.3. Alachua County Veterans Day Celebration**

Director Dunn reported that Veterans Day was full of energy and a great success. The event was in between two other events, the ribbon cutting for the new playground and the Gold Star Family Memorial reveal at Veterans Park. The VA and other local agencies help support the event. The parachutes and

helicopters were popular. In the future, we should have a water station and onsite Emergency Medical Services available to the public. We should invite the county Mobile Health Unit in the future.

#### 5.4. 2024 Operation Green Light

The National Association of Counties promotes counties to show support of veterans with Operation Green Light. Alachua County asked that buildings change their exterior lights to green for the first week in November to show solidarity to veterans transitioning from military to civilian life.

#### 5.5. Veteran Services Outreach

The board would like to see Veteran Services do more outreach to assist veterans. There is a lack of support in the small city communities and there once was. They would like to see four Veteran Service Officers.

Director Dunn response is that once the division is up to staff numbers, outreach will restart. The Dole Act passed and there will be grant money available but not enough for another Veteran Service Officer.

#### 5.6. Veterans in the Alachua County Jail System

Inmates do not have access to a Veteran Service Officer and there is no training for inmates.

Veteran Services staff attends Alachua County Veteran's Court and introduces themselves.

### 6. Citizen Comments

#### 6.1. Minutes Correction on Agenda

Veteran Services staff member states a correction to the agenda. Board is to approve the September and October 2024 minutes and not October and November minutes.

### 7. Adjournment and Thank You for Coming

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47PM.

### 8. Next Meeting will be:

February 10, 2025 at 4PM in the Freedom Center