

# MINUTES OF THE US MILITARY VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dunedin Community Center  
Wednesday, April 10, 2024 / 10:00 am

Members Present: Rob Cozen (Chair), Larri Gerson (Vice Chair), Eric Keaton, Frank Vanore, William Short

Members Absent: Kevin Sinnett, James Spangler, Paul Thompson, Lacy Zabel Hollings

City Staff Present: Lanie Sheets, Administration Superintendent

Other Attendees: Commissioner John Tornga, Gary Krupa, Patricia Krupa

**CALL TO ORDER: Chair Rob Cozen called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Committee and Guests recited the Pledge of Allegiance**

## 1. ADMINISTRATIVE

### a. Approval of February 2024 Minutes

**MOTION:** Motion was made by Eric and seconded by Larri to approve the March 2024 minutes.

**VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

### b. Guest Introductions – Patricia and Gary Krupa introduced themselves. They live in the condos next to Stirling Park.

## 2. OLD BUSINESS

### a. City Employee Benefits for Veterans

- i. Larri provided the committee with a copy of Florida Statutes 295.07. She then compared these requirements with those in City Resolution 19-07. There were questions on whether the City was in compliance.
- ii. Larri has agreed to request additional information from the HR department and possibly meet with HR staff to clarify the City policies.

### b. Possible Renaming Section of the Pinellas Trail

- i. Topic was tabled as Lacy was not present.

### c. Donald Roebling & Stirling Park Discussion

- i. Commissioner Tornga was present and Chair Cozen asked him to discuss a meeting that was held onsite. Commissioner Tornga explained that he met at the park with representatives from veteran organizations. The discussion was

to first secure the property for a veteran park. A particular section of the property was identified. They would next determine what it looks like, what features would be included and what it would be named.

- ii. There was discussion on the merits of the Committee's recommendation to name it after Donald Roebling.
- iii. The Committee agreed this topic should be an ongoing discussion and this Committee should be an integral part of any recommendations.

### 3. NEW BUSINESS

- a. NA

### 4. OPEN FLOOR

- a. Rob presented an application for a Veteran Friendly Business from Olde Bay Café.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by Eric and seconded by Larri to approve application.

**VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Larri made an announcement that there is currently a problem with the Committee minutes loading onto the website. The City is working to fix the issue.

### 5. NEXT MEETING

The next committee meeting is scheduled at 10AM on Wednesday, May 1, 2024. Topics to include a presentation from Big Brother/Big Sister, Fallen Soldier Memorial (James), and Stirling Park Discussion. City Employee Benefits will be scheduled for July.

**MOTION:** Motion by Frank and seconded by Larri to adjourn the meeting.

**VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously

**MEETING ADJOURNED 11:03 AM**

*Disability Provisions: It is the policy of the City of Dunedin not to discriminate against disabled persons in employment or the provisions of services. If you have a disability that requires accommodation, please notify the ADA Coordinator 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting at (727) 298-3043.*