

VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, November 20, 2003
County Council Room
3:00 p.m.

Present

Members

Denny Austen
Penny Fox
Roy Hinokawa
Paul Johnston
Louis Kaiwi
Wendall Kekumu
Morris Kihara
George Mukai
Patrick Pavao
Gilbert Sampaia
Hideo Segawa
Dale Wilson

Ex-Officio

Patricia G. Engelhard, Director, P&R

Also Present

Nathalie Santos, Department of Parks and Recreation
Delbert Nishimoto

Kona Mayor's Office (Via Videoconferencing)

Peter Callahan
Ted Funk
Himeo (Boss) Hanato
Minoru Hanato
Richard Highley
Napua Wells
Joe Yoshishige

Absent

Keith Burley
Charles Mayes
George Yamamoto

Call to Order

- Chairman Louis Kaiwi called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

- Seven people (See above list) attended the meeting via video conferencing from the Kona Mayor's Office.

STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No public statements made.

Previous Meeting Minutes – September 18, 2003

- The Minutes for the October 16, 2003 meeting were approved with one correction made by Vice Chairman Denny Austen. On Page 5, Under Announcements: Veterans Day Ceremonies; North Kohala – Barbara Austen was not the guest speaker, she introduced guest speaker – Dr. Jamal Wasan, Retired Colonel.

STATE VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD – REPORT

Mr. Delbert Nishimoto, Big Island representative on the State Veterans Advisory Board reported the following:

Veterans Cemetery II, Phase II Expansion Project

Date of Notice to proceed on project is November 17, 2003 with 180 working days allotted. The General contractor is GW Construction and the Project Coordinator and Manager is M & E Pacific.

Veterans Cemetery III, West Hawaii

Attempted to schedule a meeting with West Hawai'i Veterans, OVS Director, Department of Defense Hawai'i Engineer Major Neal Mitsuyoshi and a P&R representative. However, that meeting will be at a later time. Currently OVS has met with M & E Pacific and they are in the process of redesigning master plan in accordance with VA guidance on approved scope of work. The total construction cost at this stage cannot exceed 1 million dollars. The project will be phased within a period of two years, whereby, \$100,000 per phase will be allocated. When it is returned to OVS and DOD, they will seek input for prioritization of project phases from Big Island Veterans and most especially the West Hawai'i representatives and P&R.

Richard Highly asked if the \$1 million funding for West Hawai'i Cemetery is not spent in the next two years, would it remain towards the cemetery or will it be lost.

Chairman Kaiwi responded that funds would lapse and be lost. He recommended that West Hawai'i veterans communicate with OVS.

Richard Highly said they will write a letter requesting an expected date of completion for revisions.

Patrick Pavao asked Mr. Nishimoto to request a timeline from OVS to be presented at the next meeting.

Office of Veterans Services (OVS)

OVS Director General Cockett may be ending his term in December.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Veterans Cemetery I – Expansion of Flagpole Area

George Mukai did not receive a material list and had no report.

Veterans Cemetery II – Lighting Update

Chairman Kaiwi shared his concern about P&R's recommendation against solar lighting and suggested checking with M&E. Director Engelhard said that P&R will check with M&E on solar lighting.

Veterans Cemetery III, West Hawai'i (Mulch)

Boss Hanato reported that they obtained (3) loads of mulch which was spread out, but not yet completed. He checked mulch following the high winds yesterday and everything was all in tact and looking good.

NEW BUSINESS

Vietnam Memorial – Parking Sign Placards

Gilbert Sampaia said that the parking stall signs are missing from the Vietnam Memorial Parking area. The signs used stated something like "Parking for Visitors to Vietnam Memorial". The posts are still up, but the signs are illegible. It looks bad, either signs could be replaced or removed.

Director Engelhard will inform State Parks District Superintendent Glenn Taguchi.

Membership

Patrick Pavao requested an updated membership roster be provided at the January meeting.

Elections for 2004

Chairman Kaiwi requested that Elections be put on January's agenda for a new Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Training – The Sunshine Law: A Guide To Board & Commission Members and Agency Employees

In November, a Memorandum from Corporation Counsel dated October 27, 2003 were mailed to members informing them of a rescheduled training session with the Office of Information Practices on December 4, 2003 from 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm at the Councilroom. Interested members should inform Nathalie of their intent to attend. Wendall Kekumu and Penny Fox are scheduled to attend.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on January 15, 2004 at 3:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nathalie Santos
Secretary