

## **Cerro Gordo County Veteran Affairs Commission Meeting Minutes Monday, June 26, 2023, 9:00 am**

Commissioner attendance: Jessica Reith, Cecil Foell, Daryl Johnson, and Richard Ochoa.  
Other representatives Maria Bilharz (Director CVSO), and Paul Beatty (CVSO).

Absent: Cindy Davis

1. Meeting called to order by Richard Ochoa at 9:05 a.m.
2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes. Daryl Johnson made a motion to approve May meeting's minutes, second by Jessica Reith with an amendment to change the approved minutes notated from "February to April." Motion passed.
3. Signing of bills. Bills signed included: KCMR Vets Tribute. A request to receive the KCMR bill annually instead of monthly has been granted. Ultimately lessening the number of claims to sign. The office cell phone, and bi-monthly paper shredding services (Shred Right). End of fiscal year purchasing of food cards, gas cards, and bus tokens. Multiple mileage reimbursements from training events attended by the two county veterans' services officers. Vetraspect veteran's office software solutions program annual renewal. Multiple mileage reimbursements for commissioner tree donation outreach event. Jessica Reith made a motion to approve the bills/financials; second by Daryl Johnson. Motion passed.
4. Bronze plaques for commissioner tree donations. One of two requested estimates have been received for 8" x 5" bronze plaques to be placed with the donated trees. Costs factors are exceeding our budget proposed for this project. Franklin Bronze Plaques Company quoted a single 8" x 5" bronze plaque with a stake in the amount of \$271.00 per plaque. Discussion was mutual that it was not financially feasible, and to keep seeking out other routes that would be more affordable, and still look presentable. Tabled to a later date when more quotes with different material options are acquired.
5. What's New in the Office:  
Home Base Iowa Update: A date has been set for Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup> for the HBI Dedication Ceremony. Approximately 50 invites have been sent out from the CG County VA Office. This includes all the city Meyers, City Administrators, and local Veterans Service Organizations. The invites, application and flyers have been created for the program. Cerro Gordo has also applied to be a Home Base Iowa County on the business listings. A list of current (10%) businesses already taking part in the program as a HBI business has been recovered. Two bouquets have been ordered through Hy-Vee floral to be delivered the day before the event. We are placed on the park and rec board agenda for the first week of July to get approval to use the park for the event. A podium, speaker system, and special music is being sought out. An agenda has been started to hand out the day of the event. Four home base Iowa signs have been approved for placement by the Iowa DOT, and they have been ordered.

Veteran Stand Down "Operation Golden Hawk" will take place again this year in Mason City, September 23, 2023, at the North Iowa Events Center All Seasons Building. Discussion look

place for a motion by Cecil Foell to approve a \$500.00 donation from the Cerro Gordo County Veterans Affairs Commission. Second by Daryl Johnson. Check will be cut back to the Cerro Gordo County office after July 1, 2023. Our commission can then present the donation to an Operation Golden Hawk committee member.

#### Commissioner Three Year Board Term

Two commissioners whose board terms expire June 30, 2023, have opted in for reappointment from the Cerro Gordo County Board of Supervisors. Cecil Foell and Jessica Reith, thank you for seeking a reappointment three-year term. New reappointment letters will be created and sent off from the Supervisor's once applications are approved.

5. Public Comments – No public attendance or comments.

6. Next meeting scheduled for July 31, 2023 - 9:00 am

7. Adjourn –Richard Ochoa made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Cecil Foell. Motion passed.

Minutes submitted by Maria Bilharz