

Quarterly VAC Meeting

Date: 7/10/24

Time: 4:00pm

End Time: 5:00pm

Location: Government
Center Brantner Gulch B,
Teams (Hybrid)

Meeting called by: Luke Orander

Facilitator: Note taker: Julissa Raygoza

Attendees: Chaz Tedesco, Lisle Reed, Luke Orander, Terry Young, Glenn Robinson, Donald Maloy, Bradley Bohling, David Bigelow

Minutes

Agenda item: Motion to Approve the Agenda Presenter: Luke Orander

Discussion:

Roll call was done, and the agenda was approved.

Conclusions: N/A.

Time: 4:10pm

Duration: 10 minutes

Agenda item: New Business Presenter: Luke Orander

Discussion:

- A.) Lone Sailor Presentation Update
- B.) Memorial Sign Program Update
- C.) Strategy Work (Postponed to next quarter (Is this still something VAC wants to pursue?))

Conclusions:

- A.) Luke Orander will provide on pager, and power point to present to the board. This will be submitted by July 15th study session to present on July 30th. Donald Maloy will accompany Luke to present to the board.
- B.) Please view attached brief for a more in detailed update. After reviewing the brief VAC concluded that the signs can be offered for the families to receive the signs themselves. Glenn Robinson will also be reaching out to public works to verify that other veterans' organizations are aware about the memorial sign program.
- C.) VAC voted on continuing strategy work with Chris Herndon and will continue to work on team charter next quarter.

Meeting date: July 10, 2024

Location: Adams County Government Center

Agenda item: Other Business

Presenter: Luke Orander

Discussion: N/A

Meeting Adjourned: 5:00PM

Adams County Veterans Advisory Commission Memorial Sign Program

Background:

The Adams County Veterans Memorial Sign Program is an initiative spearheaded by the Veterans Services Office (VSO) and the Veterans Advisory Committee (VAC). This program aims to honor the service and sacrifice of military veterans through the placement of memorial signs. These signs are a tribute to veterans and serve as a physical reminder of their dedication to protecting the freedoms of the United States.

Each year, the VSO and VAC host a Memorial Day event, providing a space for the community to reflect on the contributions of service members. The Memorial Sign Program aligns with this mission by creating a lasting homage to individual veterans, ensuring their legacies are publicly recognized.

Program Interest and Participation:

Since the program's inception approximately one year ago, there have been three applications submitted by individuals interested in memorializing veterans through this program. The process for handling these applications has involved collaboration between the VSO and the Public Works Department to verify the legitimacy and sufficiency of the documentation provided.

1. Application Process:

- **Review:** Public Works staff, in conjunction with the VSO, review the submitted documentation against the program's guidelines.
- **Documentation Sufficiency:**
 - Two applications were deemed to have provided sufficient and legitimate documentation.
 - One application, which included only a cut-out obituary, was considered insufficient. Despite follow-up efforts, no additional documentation was provided by this applicant.

2. Challenges in Sign Placement:

- The two applications with sufficient documentation were for veterans within the incorporated areas of Aurora and Brighton.
- Public Works reached out to these cities to invite their participation in the program. However, both cities declined to engage in the program within their jurisdictions.
- Attempts to identify suitable sign locations within unincorporated Adams County were made. However, the applicants preferred locations within their respective cities, leading to a lack of progress and the applications becoming dormant.

Moving Forward:

To enhance the effectiveness of the Memorial Sign Program, the following steps could be considered:

1. Improved Collaboration with Cities:

- Renew efforts to engage city officials in Aurora and Brighton to reconsider their participation.
- Explore potential incentives or adjustments to the program that may align better with city interests.

2. Alternative Location Strategies:

- Identify and promote attractive sign locations within unincorporated areas that may appeal to future applicants.
- Work on creating a centralized memorial area in unincorporated Adams County that could serve as a focal point for these memorials.

3. Enhancing Documentation Requirements:

- Provide clearer guidelines and examples of acceptable documentation to ensure applicants understand what is needed.
- Offer assistance or resources to applicants to help them gather the necessary documentation.

4. Community Outreach and Engagement:

- Increase community awareness about the Memorial Sign Program through events, social media, and local media.
- Encourage community members and organizations to participate and support the program.

By addressing these areas, the Adams County Veterans Memorial Sign Program can continue to grow and effectively honor the veterans who have served the nation.