

## **Veterans Committee: Minutes of August 12, 2021**

Present: Charles Heidelberg, Tracey Corbett, Russ Panico, Lisa Peet, Delia Baker

Not present: Marty Adams, Trice Batson, Ezra Bell, Jenny Buysse, Denise Lindsley, Don Mccuity, Robyn Scheiber

Meeting called to order at 1:30 PM

**Update on Veteran Garden:** Charles met with Dannie Alexander earlier in the day. The plan to replace the fallen mural is approved. Dannie recommends a spring form sign system be installed from <https://lindsignspring.com/product/bannerframe-classic-with-covers/>. This system can be scaled to cover the area of the veterans garden where the mural was. Dannie would like the VSC to work with marketing to create a design. He will handle the ordering and installation. Dannie also has the names of the original supporters of the project which can be incorporated into the new sign.

It was recommended that the VSC identify the original creator of the mural and look for pictures of it to consider in the new design. It was also suggested that the new design incorporate the insignia of the four military branches and US Coast Guard into the new sign.

**MVAA Veteran Friendly Campus:** Charles received an inquiry from the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA) in late July regarding our desire to apply for Veteran Friendly Campus status with them for the 2021-22 school year. KVCC last applied for this in 2018. Charles has been completing the application and working with institutional research for demographic data. Application will be submitted by the deadline of August 14th.

Delia and Tracey mentioned that the veteran Buddy-to-Buddy program previously run by the University of Michigan was now managed by MVAA. Delia will give Charles her MVAA contact so he can work on becoming a BTB mentor for KVCC

**9/11 Tribute Planning:** Charles has reserved the "9/11 Foyer" near the main TTC entrance for a 9/11 remembrance on Friday, September 10 at noon.

Russ reminded the committee that we need to invite Dr. Washington and Charles will do this. Previous tributes have been fairly simple and heartfelt. A general format has been to hear a few words from the veteran services coordinator, then a few words from Dr. Washington, an opportunity for people in attendance to share their feelings and/or memories, and a moment of silence.

Having a guest speaker was discussed. The consensus was that we do not have one.

**Veterans Day Planning:** KVCC will once again be hosting the inclement weather site for the Kalamazoo County Veterans day ceremony. Charles will also begin planning a ceremony at TTC for a flag raising on the TTC campus before classes on November 11.

It was recommended that Charles talk to Vic Ledbetter about using military veteran cadets from the police academy for the ceremony.

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 PM