



Veterans Empowerment Team

Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 7, 2018

12:00 – 12:30

Rose Room, City Hall

1. Will Morita reported on Rebuilding Day that VETs participated on April 28, 2018. 19 people showed up out of 25 who signed up. Core objectives were finished, though the workforce diminished after the reachable areas of the house were finished painted. Morita recommends next year choosing a house that requires yard work and other improvement, rather than heavily dependent on painting.
2. Christopher Sun spoke about the upcoming Meet Your Army event being hosted by VET for the City of Portland's elected officials and bureau leadership:
 - a. U.S. Army has identified 27 communities across the nation lacking a general understanding of the Army and the skills that many veterans have after their service. Portland has been identified as one of the communities that would benefit from the Meet Your Army program.
 - b. The Meet Your Army program is an outreach initiative that sends Army leaders to American communities where the Army has little or no presence.
 - c. This opportunity meet two of the VET's core pillars: Veterans Advocacy and Cultural Education.
 - d. As of the meeting date, 10 participants within City of Portland have signed up to attend.
 - e. Event will take place May 24, 2018 from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in the Rose Room, with catered lunch sponsored by VET.
 - i. Soliciting donations in kind, and not using any of the DEEP funding.
3. Christopher Sun spoke about the current status on program re-development for VET:
 - a. Currently drafting by-laws/charter for VET to formalize roles and responsibilities, processes, etc...
 - b. Will eventually change to an opt-in format with an application requirement.

- i. Nobody will be turned away, but the application will be useful to track membership (data), and help establish contact information.
 - ii. Moreover, the membership will be made up of a more committed base.
 - c. Four Pillars:
 - i. Veterans Advocacy
 - 1. Beginning outreach to external veterans organizations to convene a Veterans Town Hall and, ultimately, charter an official Veterans Advisory Committee to serve as a city-wide resource.
 - 2. Working with BHR to improve veterans outreach and hiring practices.
 - ii. Community Service
 - 1. NSTR
 - iii. Leadership Development
 - 1. Begin identifying veterans in key positions to speak at “Lunch & Learn” style events.
 - iv. Cultural Education
 - 1. Requesting a city-wide moment of silence before the Memorial Day weekend for all employees to remember, honor, and tribute to our brothers- and sisters-in-arms who gave the ultimate sacrifice to defend our nation and preserve our freedoms.
- 4. Will Morita announces stepping down from co-chair position.
 - a. Upcoming nomination period followed by voting for new co-chair
 - b. Will develop rules on term limits for positions within VET, part of chartering process.

In attendance:

Nicholas Carroll
Will Morita
Sean Bjornstrom
Edward Vanburen
Henry Quach
Christopher Sun

Statistical data:

Branch of Service

5 USA
0 USMC
1 USN
0 USAF
0 USCG
0 Veterans Advocates (CIV)

City Bureaus & Offices

0 Mayor & Commissioners Offices
0 City Attorney's Office
0 City Auditor's Office
0 City Budget Office
2 Bureau of Development Services
0 Bureau of Emergency Communications
0 Portland Bureau of Emergency Management
0 Bureau of Environmental Services
0 Office of Equity & Human Rights
0 Portland Fire & Rescue
0 Fire & Police Disability & Retirement
0 Office of Government Relations
0 Portland Housing Bureau
1 Office of Neighborhood Involvement
0 Office of Management & Finance
0 Portland Parks & Recreation
0 Bureau of Planning & Sustainability
0 Portland Police Bureau
3 Portland Bureau of Transportation
0 Portland Water Bureau