

Virginia Beach Military Economic Development Advisory Committee Meeting

30 October 2023

1500 - 1630

Members Present:

Chair RADM Fenton Priest, Vice-Chair RADM Gregory Nosal, MCPO Lawrence Barbrey, CAPT Christopher Chope, CAPT J.J. Cummings, CAPT Loren Heckelman, CAPT Robert Herbert, RADM Robert Katz, RADM Charles Kubic, CDR Kathleen Owens, CAPT Louis Schager, CAPT Robert Smith, CAPT Charles Stuppard

Members/Guests Present via Phone:

RADM Mark Gemmill

Members Absent:

Elizabeth Dietzmann, City Councilman R.D. Norman Holcomb, RADM Phillip Olson, City Councilman Chris Taylor

Guests/Advisors/Staff Present:

Charles Bauman III, Sultan Camp, Andrew Damon, David Gray, ShiKim Holden, Mercedes Holland, Brent McKenzie, Tecora Mclntyre-Catlett, Ihsane Mouak, Todd Nichols, Amy Rodriguez, John Uhrin

- I. Chair Fenton Priest called the meeting to order at 1500.
 - a. Chair Fenton Priest welcomed everyone to the meeting.
 - b. General Introductions were made around the room for all those present.
 - c. Chair Fenton Priest discussed the MEDAC attendance policy. Mr. Fenton informed the board that three unexcused absences can lead to removal from the committee due to City policies.

- II. Approval of 28 August 2023 Meeting Minutes
 - a. Motion: Louis Schager
 - b. Second: Charles Kubic
 - c. Minutes were approved unanimously.

- III. City Update – City Council Liaisons
 - a. There was no report out. Both councilmen were absent. Chair Fenton Priest informed the members that he is working with Councilmember Chris Taylor on recruitment processes. General discussion was had regarding attendance and recruitment.

- IV. Command Updates for JEB Little Creek – Fort Story/NAS Ocean Updates
 - a. CAPT Gray relieved CAPT Michael Witherspoon as the commander of Joint Base Little Creek-Fort Story. Mr. Gray informed the board of the discussion had at the Iowa Gun Barrel Ceremony regarding councilmember quantity restrictions and opening the event to the public. CAPT Gray stated that involvement of everyone was key.
 - b. The bases plan to install new barriers early 2024.

- a. The installment will begin with new barriers going up at Fort Story's gate 8. It will continue with gates 5, 3, and 1. This will increase the flow of traffic from the main streets and improve security of the base. Each gate will take three to five weeks.
- c. Mr. Priest inquired about the Skipper's Residence damage from the tornado. Mr. Gray informed Mr. Priest that it was the property adjacent to the residence that was damaged.

V. HRMFFA Update – Todd Nichols

- a. Rick Dwyer was unable to attend. Mr. Nichols informed the board of Hampton Roads winning two DCIP Grants. Naval Station Norfolk's grant is for storm water management system improvements, while Little Creek Fort Story's grant is to replace deteriorated infrastructure at Creeds Law Enforcement Training Facility.
- b. NDAA is on track to negotiate major issues before Thanksgiving and be voted on by the end of the year. The continued resolution is set to expire on November 17th, so another would need to be filed to continue work due to delay from Congressional Speaker issues.
- c. Members of HRMFFA visited the Pentagon October 26th to meet with Senior Pentagon Officials and gathered information on the broadening of the DCIP Programs.
 - i. There were mentions of energy enhancement incentives possibly being integrated. They also spoke about including defense critical infrastructure.
 - ii. The Senior Pentagon Officials also mentioned putting funds into surrounding areas of public shipyards to increase safety and economy within the area.
 - iii. Noise mitigation was another topic discussed. They are looking into funding noise installation in new buildings to minimize sound in high volume areas.
- d. General discussion was had on increasing recruitment and support of the troops when transitioning out.
- e. HRMFFA is working to get the incoming CNIC, Adm. Gray, to come speak at December's board meeting regarding the Navy's quality of service initiatives and the actions being taken to improve them.

VI. Economic Development Update – Charles Bauman

- a. In February 2023 the Navy issued an RFP. The exercise was completed in May 2023. Thirty days after closing, the Navy contacted all respondents and informed them that the RFP was canceled. A new RFP was issued May 2023 and is currently in progress. The submittal deadline for this RFP is 1 December 2023. The city is not a respondent for this RFP. It will be best to support private sector entities. There are three known respondents submitting proposals on the December deadline.
- b. City Council adopted a resolution on 3 October urging private sector interest and Oceana Naval Air Station opportunities. Mr. Bauman asked the committee to endorse a Letter of Support from Chair Priest to City Council.
- c. The City's resolution will be communicated to the developers. Each developer will be worked with individually regarding next steps after approval. There was a suggestion to request an amendment of the solicitation to include distribution of formal notice to developers regarding when/what is available to them to hold the City and Navy

responsible. There was also a suggestion of composing a different letter that updates the list of future parcels and restrictions.

- i. Motion: Charles Kubic
- ii. Second: Louis Schager
- iii. Minutes were approved unanimously.

VII. Military Workforce Development Update – Sultan Camp, Ihsane Mouak

- a. The OSD’S Military and Spouse Partnership Program has transitioned from commitment to engagement. Employers participating in the program will now be graded. If they have not hired any Military spouses within the one-year period, their involvement is dissolved.
- b. Military Workforce Development is having an issue with participation at events held south of the tunnel.
 - i. The Army is doing well with recruitment. The Army Future Soldier mock bootcamp course went live in September. This course prepares civilians by holding a pre-bootcamp.
 - ii. The Army is also giving reserved members the opportunity to gather a skillset with future employers while still being in the reserves.
- c. Last 757 Career Summit will be held next week. It is a retention event. The event will include a mixer, headshots, a panel discussion, resume builders, and other helpful career enhancers.
- d. Received three awards from the International Economic Development Council.
- e. The Hive’s November newsletter will be dedicated to veterans.
- f. There will be a Veterans Commemoration Event 11 November. Ms. Mouak provided the members with invitations.

VIII. Command Visit Program Update – CAPT (Ret) Kit Chope, CAPT (Ret) Lou Schager, and CAPT (Ret) Charles Stuppard

- a. There is no report out. No update currently.

IX. Special Presentations and Discussions

- a. CAPT Kit Chope, President & CEO of the Neptune Festival, shared the detailed presentation. **Please see attached for the full presentation.** Highlights include:
 - i. It is an Independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
 - ii. Its \$2.8M annual budget was raised through sponsorships and event revenue.
 - iii. Neptune Festival Boardwalk Weekend visitors generates \$1.19 Million in Direct Tax Revenue

X. Announcements

- a. Jones & Cabacoy Veterans Care Center (JCVCC) will officially have their grand opening 10 November at 10AM.

Adjourned at 1642

Next Scheduled Virginia Beach Meeting: 22 January 2024 (No December Meeting)

Next Joint Committee Meeting: 27 November 2023 (Virginia Beach to Host)