

Virginia Beach Military Economic Advisory Committee Meeting
4525 Main Street, Suite 700, Virginia Beach, VA 23462
1500, Monday, 26 February 2024

Members Present:

Chair RADM Phil Olson, Vice-Chair RADM Robert Katz, CAPT J.J. Cummings, CAPT Christopher (Kit) Chope, CAPT Bill Curtis, RADM Mark Gemmill, CAPT Loren Heckelman, CAPT Robert (Steve) Herbert, RADM Charles Kubic, RADM Gregory Nosal, RADM Fenton Priest, CAPT Louis Schager, CAPT Charles Stuppard

Members Present Virtually: CAPT Robert Smith from Son's Home in Erie, PA

Members Absent:

MCPO Lawrence Barbrey, CDR Kathleen Owens, Councilman Chris Taylor (City Council Liaison)

Guests/Advisors/Staff Present:

Charles Bauman, John Boss, Sultan Camp, Kayla Dotson, Gene Garland, Mercedes Holland, Robert Holmes, Vicki Kelley, Ishane Mouak, Todd Nichols, Caleb Smith, John Uhrin III

Opening Remarks:

- I. Chair Olson welcomed everyone to the meeting and members and guests introduced themselves.
Due to scheduling conflicts the agenda was adjusted- please see attached documentation showing order of events.
- II. Economic Development Update – Director Charles Rigney
 - a. Economic Development team has been continuing to work on bringing value to Naval facilities, he notes that the surge of defense related business would be beneficial to both the Navy and Virginia Beach.
 - b. Discusses the development of the VB trail, a walking path project extending from Newtown Road to the Oceanfront.
 - c. Working on potential development of a convention center hotel
 - d. Future Base Design RFP's submitted to Oceana were denied. There will be an upcoming meeting to discuss areas of improvement. Oceana is interested in an "end user" developer. Rick Dwyer with HRMFFA notes he may be able to help facilitate a conversation with the head of real estate.
- III. Command Updates
 - a. JEB Little Creek – Mercedes Holland reports Little Creek continues to be busy and continuing to grow.
- IV. Minutes:
 - a. 22 January 2024 Minutes were unanimously approved, with the note that Clerk Vicki Kelly will add geographical locations of members who attended virtually, required by the remote participation policy.
- V. There was no City Update due to the absence of Councilman Taylor
- VI. HRMFFA Update – Rick Dwyer

- a. Four Bills to be heard at the beginning of March: Veterans Administration, Transportation, Agriculture and Energy.
- b. Continue to track other Bills that impact Little Creek and Oceana.
- VII. Military Workforce Development Update – Sultan Camp, Ihsane Mouak
 - a. [Full presentation attached to these minutes.](#)
 - b. Hampton Roads Veterans Employment Center (HRVEC) January 2024 updates
 - c. Key upcoming events
 - d. Continue Networking
 - e. Hiring event March 12th
 - f. 56 Veterans business supported from January to mid-February 2024
 - g. Workspaces open for veterans or military spouses to utilize.
- VIII. Command Visit Program Updates
 - a. No current updates to discuss.
- IX. Virginia Department of Veterans Services Update – Kathy Owens
 - a. There was no update due to the absence of Kathy Owens
- X. Special Presentations and Discussions
 - a. Attendance and Meeting frequency
 - i. Vice Chair Robert Katz pooled responses for shifting MEDAC meetings to every other month with the note that special meetings can be called on an as needed basis. Proposed dates unanimously approved.
 - ii. Proposition to move joint meetings to two a year as well as the hope attendance policy can be adjusted to non-mandatory attendance for joint meetings.
 - iii. Clerk Vicki Kelly to review the public meeting laws with the city clerk’s office for clarification of guidelines.
 - iv. Clerk Vicki Kelly to coordinate with Norfolk MEDAC to find best date for joint meeting – date proposed is May 20, 2024, can be adjusted as needed.
 - b. Reminder of the attendance policy, 3 absences annually call for removal from board.
- XI. Announcements
 - a. It was suggested that VB Emergency Management could come present to the board. Kit Chope volunteered to work on coordination of possible presentation.
 - b. JEB Little Creek – Mercedes Holland shared information about “Gator Fest” on August 24, 2024. To include guest speakers, showcases, live music, and military demonstrations.
 - c. Hoping to work through “command visit” issue – what is the possibility of working on program to inform bases of what projects MEDAC is working on, hoping to be granted a “wavier to FOIA”

Meeting adjourned at 1614.