

Special Committee Veteran's Services  
6/11/25 Minutes

Present:

CDR Sergio Villaverde, Chair SCVS  
Dr. Julia Gomez, Committee Member  
Rob Spalter, Community Committee Member

Absent:

Herb Barret, Committee Member  
Margaret Della, Committee Member  
Emily Hausman, Committee Member  
Patrick Watson, Community Committee Member

Guests:

Nicholas Lynch  
Rosario Cruz  
Dr. Lessie Branch

Meeting called to order 7:40 PM

1. Welcome and roll Call: No quorum
2. Approval of Prior Committee Minutes of January 30, 2025 – Vote tabled due to not having quorum
3. Chairperson's report - Chair Villaverde reviewed the letter from Mr. Marty Wolpoff and the members present gave it most serious consideration.
4. Memorial Grove Event - Proposed date of 11/2, the Sunday before Veteran's Day. Hope to be able to acknowledge one or two Veterans. Discussion on if funds are available to help VCPA offset cost. Chair Villaverde will look into it and follow up.
5. Award Criteria discussion - Dr. Gomez suggested that criteria concerns can be addressed under the current process and guidelines.
6. Flag Maintenance - Flagpole by Riverdale Monument -- It is unclear which city agency is responsible for the flag pole. Need to identify which city agency has jurisdiction. Jurisdiction can change if needed. Dr. Branch suggested reaching out to the NYC office of Veterans Affairs.
7. Old Business - none
8. New Business - Introduction of Dr. Branch and her work as the Special Assistant for Community Engagement at the NYS Department of Veteran's Services.
9. Adjournment - 8:26 pm

Submitted by CDR Sergio Villaverde