

Meeting Minutes - Special Committee on Veterans' Services

Thursday, April 25, 2024, at 1900 Hours (7:00PM)

Held at Board Office: 5676 Riverdale Ave, Suite 100, Bronx, NY 10471

Present:

Sergio Villaverde - Chair
Julia Gomez - Vice Chair
Margaret Della - Committee Member
Robert Spalter - Community Committee Member
Julie Reyes - Chairperson, CB8

Absent:

Herb Barret - Community Committee Member

Meeting Called to Order at 1903 Hours (7:03PM)

1) Welcome and Roll Call

Members introduced themselves and welcomed our guest. The Chair of Board, Julie Reyes, introduced herself and thanked the Commissioner for her presentation.

Chair modified agenda to permit speaker next;

2) Guest Speaker – Commissioner Viviana M. DeCohen, USMC, New York State Department of Veterans' Services

Presented news on NYS Veteran related happenings:

- a. Announced the VA is expanding Veteran's status to less than honorable discharges.
- b. NYS Parks are now free for those who served.
- c. Discussed outreach efforts.
- d. Introduced veteranmobiles – mobile services for veterans.
- e. Operation baby.
- f. Aid and attendant veteran services.
- g. Widow/er veteran benefits.
- h. VA caregiver programs for those who care for veterans.
- i. Benefits for incarcerated veterans.
- j. Veteran's housing grants.
- k. American Red Cross hero care.

3) Approval of Committee Minutes of February 22, 2024 Meeting

Magaret Della moved to approve the minutes Robert Spalter second passed unanimously by acclamation.

4) Chairperson's Report

Committee Chair Villaverde referred all to minutes.

Thanked Margaret Della for arranging the Special Guest and the Commissioner for attending.

5) Old Business

Discussion held regarding Veteran Award.

Dr. Gomez raised the possibility of setting the award in the style of the Irving Ladimer Community Service Award (CSA).

6) New Business

Dr. Gomez will inquire as to presentation from the Red Cross.

Rob Spalter announced the D -day event.

7) Adjournment

Julia Gomez moved to adjourn, seconded by Margaret Della.

Submitted by: Sergio Villaverde, Committee Chair