

Utah Veterans Advisory Council
Minutes of Monthly Meeting
March 21st, 2018

Place: Multipurpose Room at the SLC Veterans Nursing Home

Members Present: Alex Aerts, Bart Davis, Mark Eddington, Nancy Espinosa, Brian Garrett, Gary Harter, Stanley Martinez, Loren Miller, Robert Pagnani, Paula Stephenson

Excused: Shella Stovall

Secretary: Alan Ferner

Guests: Michelle Bridges, Warren Hill, Penny Larsen, Dennis McFall, Dave Phillips, Erin Wynn

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM by Robert Pagnani. Robert introduced and welcomed those in attendance. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. The minutes of our 21 February meeting were reviewed and approved by the members of the Council.
3. VA Regional Office: Loren Miller provided an update for the VARO. Loren commented that the Salt Lake VARO remains among the top 10 regional offices in all rated divisions. The Salt Lake office continues to hire new employees, with openings for both office and call center positions.
4. VA Medical Center: Warren Hill summarized recent activities at the Medical Center. The latest estimate for completion of the parking garage is April 2018. This will add 360 parking spaces for a total of 675 spaces at the parking garage.
5. Utah Dept. Veterans & Military Affairs: Dennis McFall reported that the four Utah Veterans Homes have been maintaining occupancy rates of about 98%. They continue to hold 5-star ratings. Avalon was awarded 5-year contracts to manage the Ivins and Payson homes; and the extensive remodeling of the Ogden Home has been completed. They are continuing to explore cemetery expansion options. Dennis also announced the annual golf tournament at Hill AFB on 24 May. Erin Wynn handed out a summary of Utah legislation affecting Veterans. Gary Harter reviewed legislation that impacts Veterans. Contact the DVMA office for any questions on legislation. Gary also noted that there is \$500,000 in the Governor's budget for first time Veteran home buyers. Gary then summarized upcoming Veteran related events.
6. Gary Harter handed out a flyer that describes the plans for a Bountiful Veteran's Memorial Park. We discussed this and other similar planned parks at other locations.

7. The Council members agreed to change the date of our April meeting from 18 April to 11 April

8. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM by Robert Pagnani. Our next monthly meeting will be held Wednesday, April 11th, at 4:00 PM, in the Multipurpose Room at the SLC Veterans Nursing Home.