

New York City Veterans Advisory Board

Minutes for February 22, 2017 meeting held at:

Staten Island Borough President's Office
10 Richmond Terrace, #120
Staten Island, NY 10301

Members

Present:

Todd Haskins (Manhattan)	Samuel Innocent (Bronx)
Charles Greinsky (Staten Island)	Joe Bello (Bronx)
Mariel Juarez (Brooklyn)	

Absent:

Pat Devine (Bronx)	Anthony "Tony" Odierno (Manhattan)
John Rowan (Queens)	Wendy McClinton (Brooklyn)
Charles Hernandez (Bronx)	Jules Martin (Manhattan)

Minutes

- Todd Haskins (Chair) commenced the meeting. (6:10 PM)
- All VAB members introduced themselves to the audience.

Public Session

Staten Island Borough President James Oddo gave greetings to the board and the audience.

Board chairman Haskins announced new rules for all those who sign up to speak at the public comments portion of the meeting. Moving forward all speakers will be given three minutes to provide their testimony.

Chairman Haskins introduced Tony Davis from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Mr. Davis talked about the VA Experience office and the new Community Veterans Engagement Board (CVEB). Mr. Davis also introduced VHA and VBA representatives who would answer any questions for veterans to make sure that they are not falling through the cracks. Mr. Davis introduced Dan McSweeney, who is one of the co-chairs of the new CVEB.

Chairman Haskins reminded the board that the minutes for November's meeting were approved in December for inclusion into the board's annual report.

Chairman Haskins reviewed the board's annual report to the Mayor and Speaker of the City Council and discussed what the report does in terms of informing and giving recommendations. He reviewed the last 18 months (from MOVA to DVS), and how veterans add value to the New York City community as a whole. He also discussed recognition of veterans as great citizens (second service).

Mr. Oswaldo Pereira from DVS briefly talked about Staten Island and what DVS is doing in the Borough. He introduced Matthew Basile, DVS' outreach coordinator for Staten Island. He also talked about where DVS is in terms of hires.

Public Comments: Board member Charles Greinsky (Staten Island) hosted this part of the meeting. The following individuals gave public comments to the board:

Adrienne Brammer: Ms. Brammer is the Program Manager for the NYC Veterans Alliance. She briefly discussed their website and how it provides a year round listing of public events in the New York City metropolitan area, including Long Island, Westchester, North Jersey and Hudson Valley. She stated that all individuals and organizations are welcome to submit their events, which will be posted on their calendar for free.

Meeting Adjourned.

Next Meeting: Bronx, April 20, 2017

Submitted by VAB Secretary Joe Bello.