

**MINUTES OF THE 7/7/22 MEETING OF THE EL DORADO COUNTY
VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING COUNCIL**

Officers and members – 7/1/22-6/30/23: Chairman – Bud Sweet, FRA Branch 275; Vice Chairman – Seth Culver, VFW Post 2680; Treasurer – Bud Sweet; Secretary – Dave Sauvé, VFW Post 10165; Trustees- Joe Young, FRA Branch 275 and Victor Mansfield, MCL Branch 697; At Large members – Mike Raffety, American Legion Post 119, Allen Amaro, DAV Chapter 63.

Guests: 1) Eric Nelson of MCL Detachment 697 gave an speech that touched on the subjects of eligibility for recognition on the EDC Veterans Monument, the fact that the EDC Veterans Commission needs organizations represented at or on the Commission, the desirability of the VSO returning to ‘stand alone’ status instead of being part of HHC, and the need to redo the constitution of the EDC Veterans Monument. 2) Secretary Sauvé passed around a handout that detailed the current EDC Veterans Monument policy, which were provided by John Poiriroo of the EDC Veterans Commission, who could not attend the meeting. Secretary Sauvé also read an email from David Zelinsky, SO of American Legion Post 119, detailing the travails of two of his recent contacts.

Chairman Sweet opened the business meeting with the flag salute and pledge of allegiance at 6:12 PM with 17 in attendance. All officers were present. and all organizations represented. The minutes of the 6/2/22 meeting were accepted as published on a motion by Trustee Mansfield with a second by Trustee Young The Treasurer’s report was accepted as presented by Treasurer Sweet, subject to audit, on a motion by Secretary Sauvé and a second by Trustee Mansfield.

Organization events schedule for building use:

VFW Post 2680 – Monthly meeting 7/8/22

FRA Branch 275 – Monthly meeting 7/23/22, Past Presidents Lunch on 7/16/22

MCL Detachment 697 – Monthly meeting 7/13/22

VFW Post 10165 – Monthly meeting 7/5/22, Sunday breakfast 7/10/22

CAP – Meeting every 2nd and 4th Thursday – 6:30 PM in the East room (7/14/22 & 7/28/22 this month)

Veterans Commission – 7/14/22 at EDC Supervisors chambers

DAV Chapter 63 – Dark at the VMB until August

American Legion Post 119 – Monthly meeting was 7/6/22 at their facility

Building Manager’s Report – Dave Sauvé reported on 4 donations to the Council last month and showed off the EDC Health Permit for the kitchen and dining room that we received 7/1/22. He also detailed the good maintenance/repair work done in the kitchen and men’s room by the new EDC maintenance man and added that we need an additional daily building manager for two of the Tuesdays, 8 AM til noon, each month.

Veterans Service Office report: VSO Terry Thomas reported that he attended a 7/6/22 meeting in the East room regarding EDC Veterans Monument criteria and appeals procedure, and the possibility of VSO overseeing these issues. 196 claims were submitted last month, and \$37,691 awarded with 11,000 plus with monthly benefit. He reported that the SLT office now has a representative two times a month. Also, the VA has a new ‘chat app’ on the VA website.

New Business: Allen Amaro of DAV Chapter 63 brought up the 7/6/22 meeting in the East room regarding the criteria, legalities and challenges to the installation criteria at the EDC Veterans Monument. He questioned how to fix problems and inconsistencies and who has authority. His presentation led to a long debate and discussion regarding the Veterans Commission, history of the Monument, a movement to put a resolution on the ballot to enable the public to have a voice and clarify the criteria once and for all, more encouragement for the veterans organizations to be represented at the Commission and how the Commissioners are chosen. Roger Reynolds spoke about the all-volunteer Commission and how the members are selected and thoroughly vetted. Guest Ken Schoniger, who wrote the proposed ballot resolution, gave us a very thorough dissertation about the process and the Monument criteria. Eric Nelson and Rich Buchanan gave us some additional Monument history and recommendations. One constant ‘bottom line’ throughout this extended discussion was that each of the local veterans organizations should become involved and represented on the EDC Veterans Commission...or at least attend the meetings.

(OVER)

Good of the Council - Trustee Mansfield announced that the MCL Detachment 697 was donating \$500.00 to the Council from their fundraising project in the parking lot during the EDC County Fair last month. Secretary Sauvé moved to adjourn, Trustee Mansfield seconded and Chairman Sweet adjourned the meeting at 6:58 PM after a final flag salute. Next meeting is Thursday, 8/2/22.

Respectfully submitted, Dave Sauvé, Secretary