

**JOINT BOARD MEETING OF THE HESP AND THE MECHLING-  
SHAKELY VETERANS CENTER BOARDS OF DIRECTORS  
MARCH 18, 2008**

Present at the meeting were:

Bob Tobin, President HESP  
Ron Lukcic, Editor HESP Publication  
Richard Barker, Treasurer HESP  
Chuck Froetschel, Past President HESP  
Roy Brunner, Past President HESP  
Alice Hoffmaster, Webmaster HESP  
Hopeton Thompson, Director of Veterans Center  
Mary Frances Pilarski, Coordinator, US Dept. of Veterans Affairs  
Beverly Beile, Interested Party and acting Secretary

Bob Tobin opened the meeting at 7 P.M. and introduced everyone. He explained the meeting was to define expectations and goals of both organizations. He then asked Hopeton Thompson to express the Center's perspective.

Hopeton stated that the Pavilion Project is a wonderful way for the residents of the Veterans Center to gather and socialize and without the help of HESP it could never be realized as their budget allocations are needed for housing maintenance. He further stated that they are now required to erect fencing to enclose the nine acres of property.

Hopeton revealed that the Center has received a grant of \$67,000 for modular housing and was quoted a cost of \$40,000 to erect the mandatory metal fence four (4) feet in height. He explained that the grant falls far short of the actual costs of the housing plan and the dollar amount for the fencing seems unreasonable. All present were in agreement on this and it was brought up that, if time restrictions are flexible enough, HESP may adopt this fencing issue as another project.

Hopeton expressed his gratitude for all the efforts HESP has made to date and hopes that the word will spread even further. Mary Frances offered to inform the Veterans Affairs Dept. of the Project in order to garner more promotional effort and support. She stated her appreciation for the involvement and progress HESP has made and that she is very excited about this project and promised to do all she can to support it.

Ron suggested that the HESP caterers be brought in to furnish food and beverages and perhaps they would consider this a donation to the project. Hopeton mentioned that his food service workers would offer their services. The able-bodied residents have also expressed their keen desire to do their part.

Chuck explained that construction of the cement footer will be done by DJK Construction Company. This will be accomplished prior to the erection of the Pavilion. He is working on getting a supplier to donate the concrete. It was unanimously agreed that all contractors who donate their product or skills will be advertised on the HESP website – giving special attention to their generosity. Chuck also mentioned that the prices he has been quoted to date are too costly and he is hoping to get more donations to cover this stage of the project.

Roy has promised to handle the electrical part of the project and will coordinate with Chuck on this.

Hopeton distributed Donation Guidelines documents from the Veterans Center detailing where and how their dollars are allocated. Copies of these guidelines are available from any of the meeting's attendees. He noted that all donations from HESP are slotted exclusively for the Pavilion Project and a record of all monetary and non-monetary (goods and / or services) are strictly cataloged and will be reported to HESP.

Chuck requested that Dick Barker obtain waivers for workers and any workers' children who may be present during construction to protect both organizations from liability.

Chuck informed the Board members that Ron was working on getting T-shirts made for the volunteers. Bev and Alice will coordinate their efforts to construct a large sign to be displayed at the Project site advertising the Pavilion Project.

The need for media coverage was discussed. Although several members have contacted TV, radio and newspaper sources, the responses to date have been weak. Bob and Mary Frances agreed to contact their respective Public Relation departments for information and support. Chuck suggested the "Community News" sections of local publications should welcome an article on this Project now that a date has been established and that it coincidentally is Armed Forces Day.

Dick offered that it should be additionally attractive to the media since a soldier serving in Iraq sent a donation for the project and that this story should be used to the Project's advantage.

Chuck noted that there is a need for safety managers at the Project site. They will insure that standards of safety are followed such as protective eyewear, etc., and volunteered Ron to manage this aspect.

He also informed Hopeton that he will be required to have cash available so that incidental supplies can be purchased from local businesses. Any personal tools brought to the site should be labeled with the owner's name. Start time for the Project has been set at 9 A.M. on May 17, 2008 at which time assignments will be delegated, work started and will proceed until finished. The Center will furnish coffee, tea and pastries.

Chuck also mentioned that some landscaping may need to be done and Hopeton was asked to see if the local volunteer with a backhoe will be available to assist. He then passed around a Volunteer Signup Sheet which was quickly filled in by all present.

Hopeton advised the group that ample parking will be made available for cars, trucks and campers.

This meeting was then adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Beile