



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

Minutes of
Regular Meeting of Kalamazoo County Veterans Affairs Committee
October 31, 2018

I. Call to Order by Chair, Bob Hencken at 9:05am.

II. Roll call

Members Present: Bob Hencken, Bruce Binns, Maury Kaercher, Arthur Harris, David Brewer

Liaisons Absent: Ronald Kendall, Michael Quinn

Others Present: Lauren King, Celia Bañuelos, Paula Jones, Jim Rutherford, Mark Fletcher, Lisa Henthorn, Kristine Cunningham, Dianne Shaffer, Stephanie Moore, Jeff Patton, Beth White, David Anderson

III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Chair B. Hencken requested amending the minutes, under X. New Business, to add the Motion Regarding Employee Lease Agreement and that the motion carried. He also requested to add the Motion Regarding Appointment of Veterans Service Coordinator. Stated he will provide motions and requested copies of the motions be attached to the minutes. Motion moved by B. Binns to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by D. Brewer. Motion carried.

J. Rutherford suggested adding "Approval of Agenda" item to the agenda. Chair B. Hencken agreed to add item to today's agenda.

IV. Approval of Agenda

J. Rutherford requested to add "Employee Lease Agreement" item to today's agenda. Chair B. Hencken agreed to add after IV. Financial Review. B. Binns moved motion to approved agenda, as amended by J. Rutherford. D. Brewer seconded. Motion carried.

V. Financial Review

Financial report ending September 30, 2018 reviewed. L. King reported that finances and training are on target. J. Rutherford noted 3rd quarter should be at 75%. Chair B. Hencken reported that spending is at 67%.

Burial Benefits

L. King stated burial line item is slightly over budget.

VI. Employee Lease Agreement

Chair B. Hencken stated motion was adopted last month and will be reflected in the amended minutes proposing changes to the agreement. Stated the County and J. Patton do not approve proposed changes. J. Rutherford stated the lease agreement serves its purpose and it was never intended that the CMH employees would report to the VSC. Chair B. Hencken stated he would vote to rescind the motion that was previously adopted and would approve the agreement as originally written. Chair B. Hencken stated he is in favor of a parallel structure where the VSC reports to the committee and CMH employees report to J. Patton. Chair B. Hencken explained the role of the committee is to ensure programs are being carried out. M. Kaercher moved motion to rescind motion previously approved regarding Employee Lease Agreement. B. Binns seconded. Motion carried. D. Brewer moved motion to sign Employee Lease Agreement as is. M. Kaercher seconded. Motion carried and Chair B. Hencken signed Employee Lease Agreement.

Chair B. Hencken asked regarding protection for board members. B. White stated members are covered by governmental immunity unless corporate counsel advice is not followed.

VII. Veterans Service Office Report

VSO Coordinator, Lauren King

1) Veterans Homelessness

L. King stated David Anderson to arrive and discuss veterans homelessness.

L. King introduced P. Jones, temporary administrative assistant. Reported that the call log is caught up.

P. Jones and L. King attended Project Connect event on October 10th and distributed surplus.

C. Bañuelos attended MVAA (Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency) Accreditation training and has received OGC (Office of General Counsel) Accreditation through NACVSO (National Association of County Veterans Service Officers). Noted any interested party can attend MVAA training for knowledge of veterans benefits.

L. King attended Recovery Trick or Treat event on October 25th at VAMC Battle Creek.

B. Hencken stated that our main goal should be to take care of homeless veterans and their needs.

D. Anderson, representing the Kalamazoo County Public Housing Commission, reported Kalamazoo County has allocated \$125,000. Its primary focus is to address veteran homelessness in Kalamazoo County. Funding to fill the gaps since commission funds are more flexible.

L. King, M. Fletcher and D. Anderson would like to see a community partnership group similar to one by Stoney Summey, VSO in St Joe, to help with individualized and situational care for homeless and transitioning veterans. The primary goal is to be the "gap filler" and to continue to stay in touch with these veterans. Looking for volunteers, meeting dates, and community contacts to fulfill this idea and create a task force. Chair B. Hencken requested a couple of committee members to volunteer. M. Fletcher stated meeting date is yet to be determined. L. King stated resource information and qualifying criteria will be compiled. B. Binns stated he would volunteer. D. Brewer requested to be updated via email since he would not be able to attend meetings. Chair B. Hencken

requested "Homelessness" item be added to next month's meeting agenda. He will reach out to Mary Balkema.

2) Veterans Treatment Court Mentors

B. Binns stated he was a mentor for 5 years in Allegan. Mentor meets with veteran after the veterans treatment court. Veterans treatment court is always seeking additional mentor.

L. King added that the first graduate was about one month ago and it was a very special day of celebration.

VIII. Chairman's Report

Committee Chair, Robert Hencken

Reported he had a meeting with J. Patton to discuss merger and who would report to who.

Invited all to attend the Veterans Day ceremony on Sunday, November 11th, at 2:00pm, at Rose Park. He will be the Master of Ceremony at this event. The theme is WWI including a color guard presentation. Requested program flyer be posted and emailed to committee.

IX. Citizens' Time

Nothing at this time.

X. Committee Member's Time

Nothing at this time.

XI. New Business

1) 2018 County Veteran Service Fund Grant

L. King stated she finished the grant application and it will go to the County Board on November 20th. Grant will be used to fill gaps in services including providing food vouchers for peacetime veterans.

2) Policies and Procedure

L. King will go over office policies and procedures. Will begin focus on SSR and burial benefits. Establishing policy related to SSR to provide proofs of income.

XII. Old Business

Nothing at this time.

XIII. Commissioners' Time

Nothing at this time.

XIV. KCMHSAS' Time

Veterans Services System of Care Manager, Mark Fletcher

M. Fletcher reported J. Gonzalez completed the MVAA training last week for educational purposes only. Next Wednesday is the first ADAPT group meeting. Can accept more veterans that have children between 5-12 years of age.

XV. Commissioners' Time

None at this time.

XVI. Any Other Items

J. Rutherford suggested a needs assessment. Chair B. Hencken agreed and suggested a retreat early next year to put together a plan and set goals. J. Rutherford stated there were costs associated with a needs assessment and would provide information electronically.

XVII. Adjournment

D. Brewer moved motion to adjourn meeting at 11:04am. A. Harris seconded and motion carried.