

October 07, 2021

Powell's Creek Conference Room

Veterans Commission

MINUTES

Members

Dr. Vanessa M. Gattis
Tom Gordy
Arshad Hussain
Nancy Jean-Louis

Donnell E. Johns, Sr.
Cheryl S. H. Lamar
Wayne Murphy
Tim Parrish

Present: Commissioners Dr. Vanessa M. Gattis, Tom Gordy, Arshad Hussain, Nancy Jean-Louis, Donnell E. Johns, Sr., Wayne Murphy, Tim Parrish; Director Joe Gilkerson, Admins Stacy Anderson and Veronica Marquez and three (3) citizens. Chair Tom Gordy called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Administrative Comments

- Joseph Gilkerson discussed a Veteran Affairs hospital/clinic and Veterans Resource Center being built in Prince William County. Mr. Gilkerson also discussed the Veterans Day Ceremony that will be held on November 10th, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. at the Freedom Park War Memorial located in the County Complex.

Minutes

- Minutes of September 02, 2021, were approved (Murphy-moved/Parrish-seconded/Unanimous).

Public Comment Time

- There were two citizens from the American Legion that addressed the commission in person during public comment time.

Next Meetings

- Hillary Gore with Criminal Justice Services will speak on the Veterans Docket program.
- Discuss the resources that the Veterans Service Center and Veterans Clinic could provide for Veterans and their dependents.
- Research information for a Veterans information fair for February agenda.

New Business

- The Remote Participation was reviewed, and no changes were made. The Commissioners voted to accept the Remote Participation. (Parrish-moved/Murphy-seconded/Unanimous).

- The Veterans Commission website template was reviewed. Discussed adding a Veterans spotlight for Veterans in the community, including information regarding the Commission being the first of its kind in the state, and adding a suicide prevention information banner to the top of the website. Commissioners agreed to having photos taken for the “about us” section of the website.
- Commissioners discussed creating a video message for Veterans Day.

Commissioners Time

- Commissioner Gattis – Introduced herself to the Commission.
- Commissioner Jean-Louis – Would like to establish standing rules. Thanked Hispanic Veterans for their service in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month.
- Commissioner Murphy – Pleased with the directives that are being tasked to the Commission and thanked the staff for their work and efforts.
- Commissioner Parrish – Interested in exploring options for members of the Commission to attend TAPS at the two neighboring installations as well as recruitment of Veterans for Police Department in the county.
- Commissioner Johns Sr. – Welcomed Dr. Gattis. Thanked the individuals for coming for public comment time and thanked the staff for their work.
- Commissioner Gordy – Pleased with the Commission and looks forward to being able to help the Veterans in the community. Notified Commission that he will be out of the country for his annual training for two weeks.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm. (Jean-Louis-motion/Johns Sr-seconded)