

May 4, 2023

Board Chambers

Veterans Commission

MINUTES

Members

Dr. Vanessa M. Gattis
Tom Gordy
Nancy Jean-Louis
Donnell E. Johns, Sr.

Cheryl S. H. Lamar
Tim Parrish
Joshua Quill

Present: Commissioners Vanessa Gattis, Tom Gordy, Joshua Quill, Tim Parrish; Nancy Jean-Louis, Director of Human Resources Joseph Gilkerson and Admin Veronica Marquez. Chair Tim Parrish called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Minutes

- Minutes of March 2, 2023, were approved (Gattis-motion/Gordy-seconded/Unanimous).

Public Comment Time

- None.

Administrative Remarks

- HR Director Joe Gilkerson- touched base with Chair Wheeler regarding her appointment of a new commissioner member. Supervisor Lawson also has a name for her new appointee for the commission.

Work Session

- Nominated and voted for Secretary – Commissioner Parrish nominated Commissioner Quill for position of Secretary. Mr. Quill respectfully declined. Chair Parrish nominated Commissioner Jean-Louis; she accepted the nomination. Vote for Commissioner Jean-Louis for Secretary (Gattis-motion/Quill-seconded/unanimous).
- Discussed edits to the Standing Rules. Amendment stating presentation for guest speakers shall not exceed twenty minutes was added. Additionally, the total time for a guest speaker shall not exceed thirty minutes, which includes time for questions from the Commissioners. For example, if a guest speaker presents for twenty minutes, there will be ten minutes left for the Commissioners to ask questions.
- Discussed the Transportation Funding recommendation for Veterans that need assistance. Recommended having someone from Transportation or OmniRide come in to discuss options. Mr. Gilkerson will reach out to the Transportation office and

schedule a meeting. Discussed organizations needing to become community partners.

- Discussed Willing Warriors looking for support. Commissioners would like to visit and tour or perhaps have a meeting at the facility.

Old Business

- None.

New Business

- None.

Commissioners Time

- Commissioner Gattis – Thanked those that came out to the Veterans event, Operation Honor at Fort Belvoir. The event distributed food resources to 590 families.
- Commissioner Quill – Recognized that May is National military Appreciation Month. Further discussed the facilities and programs available at Willing Warriors and their desire to be tax exempt.
- Commissioner Jean-Louis – Discussed the food insecurity event that was held at Fort Belvoir. Future goals are to hold this event at bases across the United States. Acknowledged that this month is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage month and explained the details of this month. Discussed that the American Legion Post 176 is hosting a joint Veteran Services Organization ceremony to honor Vietnam Veterans on Sunday April 9th from 1-2p.m.
- Commissioner Gordy – Also recognized Military Appreciation month. Let Commissioners know that the board recognized last month as the Month of the Military Child and recognized families with children in Prince William County. Discussed licensing from other states now being able to transfer. Let Commissioners know that the Department of Defense put out a press release calling on people to recognize May as Military Spouse Appreciation month. Recognized the establishment of the western VFW post 12218. Explained meeting with the Marine Corps housing coordinator and discussing challenges regarding housing.
- Commissioner Parrish – Discussed the event that Commissioner Gattis held at Fort Belvoir and the stories that he heard from Servicemembers and spouses. Discussed finding a way to get the licensing information that Commissioner Gordy spoke about out to the public and he would like this information added to the Commission website.

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm. (Gordy-motion/Gattis-seconded/unanimous)