

MINUTES

**Quarterly Meeting of the
Missouri Veterans Commission
Held, pursuant to notice
August 1, 2011 — 10:00 AM
Missouri State Veteran Home-St. Louis
10600 Lewis & Clark Blvd., St. Louis, MO**

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Roll Call
In attendance: **Chairman John Comerford; Vice Chairman Emmett Fairfax; Member Paul Connors; Member Scott Englund; Member Representative Barney Fisher**
Via telephone: **Member Senator Victor Callahan; Member Senator David Pearce**
Absent: Member Nancy Nelson; Member Representative Jason Kander
- C. Staff present:
 - 1. Staff: **Larry Kay**, Executive Director; **Bryan Hunt**, Deputy Director; **Jill Talken**, Executive Secretary; **Omar Davis**, General Counsel; **Kim Cleeton**, Director Homes Program; **Stan Baughn**, Director Cemetery Program; **Doug Meyer**, Director Veteran Services Program; **Tim Norton**, Director Facilities Operations; **Julie Miller**, Fiscal and Administrative Manger; **Kim Harris**, Director Human Resources; **Melissa Wilding**, Ombudsman; **Daniel Bell**, Public Relation Office; **Becky Wolken**, Administrative Assistant

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Commission Meeting minutes April 11, 2011
Member Callahan made a motion to approve the minutes of April 11, 2011 and Member Englund seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved as written.
- B. Commission Meeting minutes June 17, 2011
Member Callahan made a motion to approve the minutes of June 17, 2011 and Member Fairfax seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved as written.
- C. Commission Meeting minutes July 15, 2011
Member Fisher made a motion to approve the minutes of July 15, 2011 and Member Englund seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved as written.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director's Report was delivered by Larry Kay

- A. Restate Homes Budget Situation – Three revenue sources: Veteran resident rates, VA per diem and State GR. Mr. Kay gave a brief history of MVC budget.
- B. Recommendation Increase Resident Rates – Commissioners tabled item for decision during next Quarterly Commission Meeting and solicited input from MAVO.
- C. Introduction DRAFT Missouri Veterans Commission Homes Program Budget Communication Guide – Commissioners recommended to include a very concise historical overview of funding history in plan. Further discussion will be held on the next Quarterly Commission Meeting.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Marty Drewel, Assistant Budget Director Office of Administration acknowledges problems with the Homes Program Funding and that OA-BAP and is working with the Commission and members of the general assembly staff to find an agreeable solution. Governor Nixon recommended a \$2 million fund switch this year however the Budget Conference Committee only approved \$1 million. Mr. Drewel stated Governor Nixon is committed to solving this problem. Mr. Drewel stated "there will not be any home that will close." He acknowledged that there is no solution today but the Governor and OA are working on it.
- B. U.S. Federal Department of Veterans Affairs:
 - 1. Rima Nelson, Director St. Louis VA Medical Center Divisions reported they continue to enroll Veterans into VA healthcare system. New CBOC in Washington MO has opened. VA will also be opening clinics within 5 mile radius of St. Louis Medical Centers for primary care.
 - 2. Glenn Costie, Director Poplar Bluff VA Medical Center reported a 4% growth in enrollment at VAMC-Poplar Bluff. Outpatient Clinic in West Plains expanding. October 8 VAMC-Poplar Bluff will celebrate 60 years with ceremony at 10:00 a.m. February 17, 2012 Lee Greenwood will perform for Veterans at free concert at the Coliseum.
- C. Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations (MAVO) – Jessie Jones, Chairman reported that MAVO is working to communicate the budget situation is real. MAVO is advocating for a dedicated finding source to support all MVC Programs. A Veterans Rally will take place on September 14, 2011 at the State Capitol Building beginning at 10:00 a.m. All Veterans are encouraged to stop by the House and Senate offices.

D. Questions & Answers

The Commission invited attendees from the public to participate in a question and answer session with the Commission and with Mr. Drewel from OA. Several attendees asked questions and offered comments regarding the prospect of a resident rate increase, a home closure, and the Commission's efforts to secure a dedicated funding source for the Commission's operations.

E. Summary

Chairman Comerford concluded the meeting by summarizing three messages the Commission wished to emphasize with attendees and the public: (1) the Governor's office through Mr. Drewel, has stated clearly that it will not allow a Veterans' Homes to close; (2) the Commission has a communications plan and timetable for delivering the message about its funding needs to members of the General Assembly and the Governor's Office; and (3) the Commission asks for the public's help in communicating the message about its funding needs.

V. VOTE TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION

Member Fairfax made a motion to go into closed session. Member Englund seconded to motion. By a voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

VI. VOTE TO GO INTO OPEN SESSION

Member Connors made a motion to go into open session. Member Fisher seconded the motion. By a voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

VII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 7, 2011 at 10:00 AM in Jefferson City.

VIII. ADJOURMENT

With no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.



Larry D. Kay, Secretary