

# MINUTES

**Quarterly Meeting of the  
Missouri Veterans Commission  
Held, pursuant to notice  
May 7, 2012 — 10:00 AM  
Jefferson State Office Building, 205 Jefferson Street,  
1st Floor State Board of Education Room,  
Jefferson City, MO**

---

---

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

- A. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Roll Call

In attendance: Chairman John Comerford; Vice Chairman Emmett Fairfax; Member Paul Connors; Member Scott Englund; Member Nancy Nelson; Member David Pearce; Member Barney Fisher;  
Via telephone: Member Victor Callahan; Member Jason Kander and Ex-Officio Member Jeff Bloemker

Guests and staff present:

- 1. Guests: Robert Osborn; Sallie Houser-Hanfelder; Duane Gill; Ernie Lee; Olin Parks; Nancy Cowen; Lee Smith, Michael Elmore; Raphael Wahwassuck; Frank Prosser; Bill Stucker; Jessie Jones; Mark Enderle; Jack Matthews; George Newell; Paul Schmidt; James Wheeler;
- 2. Staff: Larry Kay, Executive Director; Bryan Hunt, Deputy Director; Jill Talken, Executive Secretary; Kevin Hall, General Counsel; Kim Cleeton, Director Homes Program; Stan Baughn, Director Cemetery Program; Doug Meyer, Director Veteran Services Program; Tim Norton, Director Facilities Operations; Melissa Wilding, Ombudsman; Daniel Bell, Public Relation Office; Becky Wolken, Administrative Assistant; Kim Harris, Director Human Resources.

## **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. Commission Meeting minutes January 30, 2012  
Commissioner Callahan made a motion to approve the minutes of January 30, 2012 and Commissioner Fairfax seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved as written.
- B. Commission Special Teleconference Meeting minutes March 8, 2012  
Commissioner Callahan made a motion to approve the minutes of March 8, 2012 and Commissioner Pearce seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved as written.

## **III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The Executive Director's Report was delivered by Larry Kay, Executive Director.

- A. Budget 2013 – HB 2008 is the Appropriations Bill for the Missouri Veterans Commission including the Veterans homes, Veterans cemeteries and other Veterans programs. This bill is currently in Conference Committee.  
HB 1731 – Changes the laws regarding the distribution of gaming monies. The bill was passed out of the Senate Veterans Committee last week. The Conference Committee is waiting for the bill to pass the Senate before hearing.
- B. FY 2011 Single Audit Report – There were no findings on the Commission.
- C. MMPEC Update – Larry Kat attended the BRAC Roundtable held April 4<sup>th</sup> at the Capitol Building.  
Ex-Officio Member Bloemker, also Chairman MMPEC reported that BRAC is likely to happen in 2015. The Governor requested a budget amendment of \$250,000 for a study to ensure the State is prepared for the effort to protect and enhance Missouri's military installations. The Senate reduced and approved \$200,000.
- D. Rose Study Update – The Commission has put together questions that will assist in preparing an updated analysis. The Commission will work to coordinate to get GIS mapping capability.
- E. General Counsel Update – Kevin Hall has accepted the position of General Counsel. He will start employment with the Commission May 16<sup>th</sup>.
- F. Commission Calendar

#### **IV. PROGRAM REPORTS**

Program reports were delivered by Bryan Hunt, Deputy Director

Member Pearce advised that HB 2019 – Capital Improvements bill heard during the Senate Appropriations Hearing that had included the Governor's recommendation of \$5.5 million for a new Veterans Home - has been removed by the Senate. Member Pearce recommended the Commissioners prioritize and approve future projects prior to taking action on bills.

#### **V. STAFF REPORTS**

Tim Norton, Director Facilities Operations reported on construction projects. Mr. Norton stressed that life safety is priority at all seven Veterans Homes.

Larry Kay, Executive Director reported on MVC Operating Appropriations by Fund.

Daniel Bell, Public Information Office reported on media contacts and social media.

## **VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Legislative Update was delivered by Commissioners Callahan, Pearce, Fisher and Kander.

## **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Dr. Mark Enderle, MD., Medical Center Director Fayetteville, Arkansas provided the Commission an update on the Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks. A new clinical addition to the hospital will be completed in October 2012 to include outpatient lab and radiology. A CBOC has been approved for Springfield and there is a proposal for a CBOC in Joplin. Currently 8,600 new enrollees from OIF, OEF and OND Veterans. New electronic travel pay procedures have been implemented. Mt. Vernon CBOC has 14,000 Veterans and Branson CBOC has 5,000 Veterans registered.  
Sallie Houser-Hanfelder, Medical Center Director provided the Commission an update on Harry S Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital. Marjorie Hedstrom has been selected as the new Medical Center Director at John J. Pershing VA Medical Center in Poplar Bluff, MO. The new Chief Operating Officer will start in June at the Harry S Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital. The new Operating Suite will open this week. The Intensive Care Unit is under new design phase. Ms. Houser-Hanfelder explained the hospital's Veteran Hiring Initiative, goal is 40% Veteran employees and they are currently at 32%. The 2012 Missouri Excellence in Safe Care Award was presented to the Truman VA Medical Center. A Strategic Planning Retreat will be held in June.
- B. Missouri Association of Veteran's Organizations (MAVO) –Frank Prosser thanked the Commission for their leadership and support on getting funding for the Veterans Homes this year.
- C. Reverend James L Wheeler, Sr. addressed the Commission regarding Buddy Poppy Campaign and legal guidance form for bequests to VFW and DAV.

## **IX. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 2, 2012 at 10:00 AM at the Missouri State Veterans Home - Warrensburg.

## **X. VOTE TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION**

Member Pearce made a motion to go into closed session for the purpose to discuss personnel issues. Member Fisher seconded the motion. By a voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

**XI. VOTE TO GO INTO OPEN SESSION**

**XII. ADJOURMENT**

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

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is stylized and appears to read "L. D. Kay".

---

Larry D. Kay, Secretary