

OPEN M I N U T E S

4th Quarter Meeting of the Missouri Veterans Commission

October 28, 2024 — 10:00 AM

Harry S Truman State Office Building

301 W. High Street, Room 492 - 4th Floor Auditorium

Jefferson City, MO 65101

WebEx Conference Call was established for public to join.

I. CALL TO ORDER

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
 - A. Commissioners in attendance in person or via WebEx Conference Call:
 - i. Chair Kelly McClelland; Vice Chair Meredith Knopp; Commissioner Steve Maples; Commissioner Steve Roberts; Commissioner David Griffith; Commissioner Tim Smith; Commissioner Robert Sauls; Commissioner Randy Alewel
 - ii. Absent: Commissioner Rick Brattin
 - B. Chair Opening Comments
 - Commission elections in CY 2025
 - C. Recognition: DPS Team Member of the Month – Christina Russel – MVC HQ
 - D. Honoring Commissioner Tim Smith for his contributions to our organization and Missouri's Veterans

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. 3rd Quarter Commission Meeting Open Minutes from July 22, 2024
2. 3rd Quarter Commission Meeting Closed Minutes: July 22, 2024
3. Minutes approved unanimously by those in attendance as written

III. COMMISSION UPDATES

1. Wreaths Across America
 - A. Wreaths Across America is a private organization separate from MVC
 - B. Wreaths Across America coordinates with MVC Cemeteries to conduct Wreaths Across America events
2. General Counsel
3. Facilities
 - A. St. Louis Veterans Home Renovation
 - i. C Unit construction on hold - litigation
 - ii. A Unit construction on hold
 - iii. Project over budget
 - B. COVID19 – VA Construction Grant
 - i. Flooring at Warrensburg, Cameron, and Mexico are in construction phase
 - ii. Mt Vernon construction is completed
 - iii. HVAC improvement for isolation and quarantine areas in Cameron, Cape Girardeau, Mt. Vernon, St. James, St. Louis, and Warrensburg are in FMDC design phase,
 - iv. HVAC improvement for isolation and quarantine areas in Mexico is in construction phase
 - v. Wi-Fi upgrades for Warrensburg, Cameron, and Mt Vernon are in FMDC design phase
 - vi. Wi-Fi upgrades for Mexico, St Louis, St James, and Cape Girardeau pending design
 - vii. COVID-19 grant projects must be completed by 9/17/26

- C. St James Water & Sewer FAI 29-053, U230901
 - In construction phase
- D. Cape Facility Renovation FAI 29-043, U180501
 - In FMDC design phase
- E. St James Facility Renovation FAI 29-044, U150301
 - In FMDC design phase
- F. Higginsville Cemetery
 - In construction phase
 - Completion date 6/12/25
- 4. Human Resources
 - A. Current Initiatives
 - i. Recruitment Campaign
 - Investment: \$400,000
 - Timeframe: December 1, 2023 – November 30, 2024
 - ii. Reallocation of vacant FTE
 - Positions previously on budget hold released to meet census goals
 - B. Staffing Rates for Direct Care Staff
- 5. Veteran Cemeteries Program
 - A. Recent Events
 - MVC - Springfield Peer Review - September 18-19, 2024 | Score 97%
 - B. Current Projects
 - Higginsville – Columbarium Wall (Est. completion 2025)
 - C. Future Projects
 - Springfield - Columbarium Wall (Up to 100% Reimbursable)
 - Grant Submitted
 - D. Upcoming Events:
 - i. Wreaths Across America - December 14, 2024
 - ii. VA/NCA Compliance Review
 - MVC - Springfield - April 8-10, 2025
 - MVC - Jacksonville - May 13-14, 2025
 - E. Interments
- 6. Veteran Services Program
 - A. Direct Cost for MVC VSO Program
 - B. Benefits Awarded to Missouri Veterans by MVC Service Officers in Current and all Previous Fiscal Years Combined
 - C. Return on Investment Ratio FY23 - \$129 : \$1
 - D. Missouri Veteran Population: 392,041 (-1.6% from 2021)
 - E. Ratio of VSOs to Veterans: 1:3,213
 - F. Missouri State Fair
- 7. Veteran Homes Program
 - A. Satisfaction Survey Results
 - B. 2024 Annual VA Certifications (Survey)
- 8. Full Certification
 - St. James
 - Mexico
 - Cameron
- 9. Survey Complete – awaiting Statement of Deficiencies
 - Cape Girardeau
- 10. Awaiting Survey
 - A. St. Louis
 - B. Mt. Vernon
- 11. Program Update
 - A. Current Census Total – 806 (65%)

- An increase of 0.10% this quarter
- B. Increase Monthly Room and Board - \$2, 697
 - i. Effective January 1, 2025
 - ii. COLA 2.5%
- C. CMS Final Staffing Rule – May 10, 2024
- D. MVH vs. CMS Final Rule:
 - i. As of September 30, 2024 MVH average staffing
 - ii. 3.66 HPRD (3.48 required)
 - iii. 0.33 RN HPRD (0.55 required)
 - iv. 2.7 HPRD C.N.A (2.45 required)
- E. Reasons to Celebrate
 - i. Warrensburg opened 3rd unit in October
 - ii. FTE Reallocation completed in August
 - iii. Welcoming of new Veterans and team members
 - iv. Join us for Veterans Day Celebrations – Nov. 11
- F. Clinical Quality Measures
- G. Staffing Measures
- 12. Fiscal Update
 - A. Supplemental New Decision Item Budget Requests for FY25 Requested by MVC
 - B. FY26 Budget Requests (House Bill 8, House Bill 5, and House Bill 18) Requested by MVC
 - C. Major Funding Sources – Homes Fund
 - D. Major Funding Sources – Veterans Commission Capital Improvement Trust Fund (VCCITF)
 - E. Medical Marijuana Revenue
 - F. Veterans Health and Care Fund
 - G. Veterans Assistance Fund
 - H. Veterans Reinvestment Fund
- IV. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:
 - 1. Representative David Griffith
 - A. Briefed on the status of multiple bills
 - i. Personal Property Tax Exempt for Certain Veterans
 - ii. Claim Sharks
 - Both came close to passing last session
 - iii. Funding bills for MVC
 - B. Provided insight on how some legislators have been under the impression that Marijuana Money was the savior of MVC, when it is not
 - 2. Representative Robert Sauls
 - Expressed hope of getting Veterans Personal Property Tax Exempt bill passed
 - 3. Senator Steve Roberts briefed on:
 - A. Amendment to increase casino entry fee
 - B. How to allocate Sports Betting funds to MVC
 - C. Need to regulate gambling terminal machines
- V. AGENCY PARTNERS UPDATE
 - MAVO; Troy Williams provided an update on the following:
 - A. Thank you to staff
 - B. MAVO Priorities during this session
 - i. Wants 100% MVC funding
 - ii. Property Tax bill
 - iii. Claim Sharks bill
 - C. Staying engaged with legislators
 - D. Alternate treatments for Veterans with PTSD / TBI
 - E. Should MVC move to directly under the Governor

VI. CHAIR COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Commission Meetings for 2025
 - A. February 3, 2025: Harry S Truman State Office Building
 - B. April 28, 2025: Harry S Truman State Office Building
 - C. August 11, 2025: Missouri Veterans Cemetery-Jacksonville
 - D. October 27, 2025: Harry S Truman State Office Building

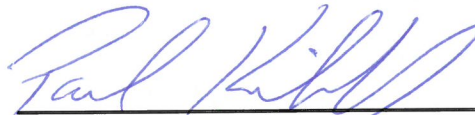
VII. VOTE TO GO TO CLOSED SESSION

1. Motion made by Commissioner Griffith
2. Seconded by Commissioner Smith
3. By a roll call vote, the motion was passed:
 - A. Chair Kelly McClelland – Aye
 - B. Vice Chair Meredith Knopp – Aye
 - C. Commissioner Steve Maples – Aye
 - D. Commissioner Steve Roberts – Aye
 - E. Commissioner David Griffith – Aye
 - F. Commissioner Alewel – Aye
 - G. Commissioner Tim Smith – Aye
 - H. Commissioner Robert Sauls – Aye
 - I. Commissioner Brattin – Absent

VIII. RETURNED TO OPEN SESSION

With no further business, motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

IX. ADJOURNMENT



Paul Kirchhoff, Secretary