



American Legion
MEL BAHER
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans
FRANK POCCI
COMMISSIONER



Disabled American Veterans
CHRISTOPHER GRAU
COMMISSIONER



Veterans of Foreign Wars
JAMES RILEY
COMMISSIONER



Vietnam Veterans of America
BOB POTTS
COMMISSIONER

Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

Ph: 216.698.2600 • Fax: 216.698.2650

Email: vscmail@cuyahogacounty.us

1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115

JON REISS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FERONNE WILLIAMS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

MINUTES

DATE/TIME: September 7, 2022 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Frank Pocci, President
Bob Potts, Vice President
Mel Baher, Secretary
Christopher Grau, Commissioner
James Riley, Commissioner
Jon Reiss, Executive Director
Feronne Williams, Deputy Director
Mary Kitko, Executive Secretary
Matthew Convery, Assistant County Prosecutor

EXCUSED: None.

VISITORS: None.

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Frank Pocci, President.

OLD BUSINESS:

Construction in the VSC workspace is complete. Main office staff will return to the office next week. The parking ramp is still under construction. Staff parking will be in the lot next door until further notice.

There are no updates on the new building. A notice to proceed has not been issued as the first round of designs have not been completed. A date for lease termination for the current office space must be determined.

VetConnect 2022 will take place on September 17, 2022. There will be a wide variety of vendors to include credit unions, housing assistance, employment and homeless services.

The Executive Director briefed the Board on job duties for the Mentor Coordinator. Once staffing levels are where they are needed, the search for a Mentor Coordinator will begin.

NEW BUSINESS:

J. Reiss provided the Board with the rough draft of his strategic plan for review. The plan will be discussed at the next open public meeting.

J. Reiss and F. Williams presented a plan to change office hours. Staff will have days that they take walk-ins and days that they have appointments. On Fridays the offices will be closed to the public. This will enable the Veterans Service Officers to do their off-line work on Friday and focus on seeing clients during the week. It will also allow Friday's to be used for staff training and team-building. This change will curb burnout among employees. The Board has agreed to the change and the new schedule will begin on October 3, 2022.

The Executive Director distributed an advertising opportunity during the SuperBowl. The Board will discuss this at the next meeting.

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Chris Grau to approve Resolution 2022-16 for the purchase of zoo tickets to support the CCVSC VetConnect event. The agreement is agreement is with the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo for the support of VetConnect Event, not to exceed \$15,000.

AYES: Baher, Grau, Pocci, Potts, Riley. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

F. Pocci announced that there will be an outreach event on September 8, 2022 at 6 p.m. at the Southwest IAC (Italian American Club). Members have been notified of the event and it has been advertised to the public. Also, Frank attended a nice AMVETS event in Conneaut for D-Day.

B. Potts stated that his VVA post has a \$2,000 grant from a trustee to help children of a veteran who is having trouble. The post is looking for suggestions to identify a child.

M. Baher announced that Post 91 will host a ceremony for 9-11 on September 11, 2022 at the gazebo behind city hall. Commissioner Baher also announced that Post 91 will be hosting a ceremony for National POW/MIA at the Post 91 pavilion. Finally, Commissioner Baher will be traveling to the national convention.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to go into Executive Session to discuss pending or imminent court action and matters to be kept confidential.

AYES: Baher, Grau, Pocci, Potts, Riley. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (11:01 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:20 a.m. In Executive Session the Board advised that pending or imminent court action was resolved by the legal team. Matters to be kept confidential will be discussed at the next meeting.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Chris Grau to adjourn the meeting at 11:21 a.m.

AYES: Baher, Grau, Pocci, Potts, Riley. NAYS: None. Motion carried.



Frank Pocci, President



Mel Baher, Secretary

CONTACT INFORMATION

Filing claims with the Dept. of
Veterans' Affairs/Memorial Affairs:

Financial Assistance Manager:

Finance/Operations Manager:

Executive Director:

Deputy Director:

Commissioners:

Melinda Halliburton, Service Office Mgr. (216-698-2639)

Jeanne Bell (216)-698-2635

Terrance Ness, Financial Supervisor (216-698-2391)

Jon Reiss (216-698-2611)

Feronne Williams (216-698-3845)

Mary Kitko, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2651)