

**Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.**  
**Minutes - Veterans Service Foundation Board Meeting**  
**Atlanta, Georgia**

Present      Mr. Joe Higgins, Chair  
                 Mr. David Goode, Vice Chair  
                 Ms. Samantha Brown-Parks, Secretary  
                 Mr. Rick White, Member  
                 Ms. Patricia Ross, Commissioner  
                 Mr. Joshua Kopsie, Secretary, Georgia Veterans Service Board  
                 Mr. Mark Demers, Foundation CEO, Grants Implementation Manager, GDVS  
                 Mr. Kerry Dyer, Foundation COO, Chief Operations Officer, GDVS  
                 Ms. Shareka Monday-Robinson, Director of Human Resources, GDVS  
                 Ms. Charlotte May, Director of External Affairs & Communications, GDVS  
                 Ms. Veda Brooks, Women Veterans & Diversity Coordinator, GDVS  
                 Ms. Camala Ball, Budget Analyst, GDVS  
                 Ms. Julie Hammond, Foundation CFO, Commissioner's Executive Assistant, GDVS

On Thursday, December 7, 2023, the Veterans Service Foundation Board meeting was held in person and by video/tele-conference.

Joe Higgins called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m. Everyone from GDVS was introduced for the benefit of the board members.

Ms. Brown-Parks made a motion to approve the November minutes. Mr. Goode seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**REPORT ON STATUS OF FUNDING:**

A donor made it possible to purchase QuickBooks Online Pro. This will allow for sound record keeping and tax filings. The program was displayed on the screen showing the current balance as \$14,905.26.

**FUNDING PRIORITIES:**

There was a discussion regarding funding priorities, with Mental Health and Homelessness being suggested as the top two. Other issues, such as food and utilities, can be handled through other boots on the ground organizations throughout the state.

Commissioner Ross and Mr. Kopsie discussed the need for additional veterans' homes in Georgia. A study was conducted which suggested the need for at least one in North Georgia and one in South Georgia. Property in Waycross is available and GDVS has requested funds to build in the next legislative session. The VA contributes 65% of the construction cost. The remaining 35% must come from the state or donated funds.

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We will need to develop elevator pitches for both short-term and long-term fundraising, tailoring these to the audience. A motion was made by Ms. Brown-Parks to set the short-term priorities for mental health and homelessness and the long-term priorities for additional veterans' homes. Mr. White seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business to discuss.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Mr. Demers announced that an in-kind donation of a wheelchair accessible van has been made. We will be accepting the donation on behalf of the Georgia War Veterans Home in Milledgeville.

Mr. White announced that the Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame had their induction ceremony on Nov. 4. He offered congratulations to Commissioner Ross, one of this year's inductees. Mr. Dyer announced that all the Hall of Fame plaques have been moved from our building to the Capitol and will be displayed there.

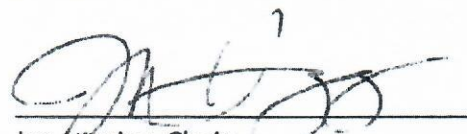
Wreaths Across America will be taking place on Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 PM at the Glennville and Milledgeville cemeteries.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The next quarterly meeting was scheduled for March 7, 2024.

Ms. Brown-Parks made a motion to adjourn. Mr. White seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:43 a.m.

SIGNED:

  
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Joe Higgins, Chair

ATTEST:

  
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Samantha Brown-Parks, Secretary