

Thursday, June 6, 2024 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
 Ms. Vivian Greentree, Member
 Mr. John Phillips, Member
 Mr. Rick White, Member
 Ms. Patricia Ross, Commissioner
 Mr. Mark Demers, Foundation CEO, Grants Implementation Manager, GDVS
 Mr. Kerry Dyer, Foundation COO, Chief Operations Officer, GDVS
 Mr. Russell Feagin, Executive Director, Health & Memorials Division, GDVS
 Ms. Camala Ball, Budget Analyst, GDVS
 Ms. Irene Mackson, Business Support Analyst, GDVS
 Ms. Julie Hammond, Foundation CFO, Commissioner's Executive Assistant, GDVS

On Thursday, June 6, 2024, the Veterans Service Foundation Board meeting was held in person and by video/tele-conference.

Joe Higgins called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Everyone was introduced.

Ms. Brown-Parks made a motion to approve the March minutes. Ms. Greentree seconded the motion. The motion passed.

REPORT ON STATUS OF FUNDING:

There is currently \$70,338.17 in the Foundation's account. Of those funds, \$50,300 has been designated for the Suicide Prevention Summit coming up. These funds are a sub-grant from DBHDD.

OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Ross expressed thanks to everyone involved in the Legislative Breakfast – Metro Atlanta Chamber, Fiserv, Vivian Greentree, and everyone who attended. The event was well attended and generated positive feedback.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Demers announced that the Foundation has been accepted to the Georgia Charitable Contributions list. This means that state employees can donate to the Foundation as a payroll deduction.

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Mr. White announced that the remains of US Army PFC Lither Elwood Bagley have been identified. Bagley, a member of Merrill's Marauders, was inducted into the Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame in 2023. His remains will arrive in July and full military funeral arrangements will be announced at that time.

Today is the 80th anniversary of D-Day.

It was discovered that Georgia Medal of Honor recipient Colonel (Ret.) Ralph Puckett Jr. was not represented on the wall downstairs. Mr. Dyer worked to make this happen and the plaque will be placed on the wall next week.

Mr. White announced that the deadline for nominations into the next Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame will be July 31st.

Ms. Brown-Parks announced that the Fulton County Veterans Empowerment Commission hasn't yet awarded all the grant funds they have available to organizations that assist veterans in Fulton County. They are re-releasing the RFP and she will send the information to everyone so they can get the word out.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Batchelor is working on securing a venue to host a luncheon or cocktail event with Governor and First Lady Kemp June 24. The proceeds from the ticket sales will go to the Foundation. The attendance will be limited to 20-25 people.

Mr. Higgins sent in a packet on Meredith Magnus, putting her forward as a potential Foundation Board member. She is from the St. Simons Island area. The packet will be sent to each member of the Board. The Veterans Service Board will have to approve the appointment in their next meeting.

Ms. Brown-Parks asked if nametags could be provided for Board members for when they are attending events. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. White that the Foundation pay for the Board members to have nametags made. Ms. Greentree seconded the motion. The motion passed. Mr. White announced that the best place to wear nametags is on the right side up high so that they are visible when shaking hands. We will send out a form so that each person can decide what they want on theirs.

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The next quarterly meeting was scheduled for August 8, 2024. Officer elections will take place at this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30 a.m.

SIGNED:



Joe Higgins, Chair

ATTEST:



Samantha Brown-Parks, Secretary