

Thursday, October 5, 2023 at 9:00 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. Shon Barnwell, Member
Mr. John Phillips, Member
Mr. Rick White, Member
Ms. Patricia Ross, Commissioner
Mr. Mark Demers, Foundation CEO, Grants Implementation Manager, GDVS
Ms. Shelly-Ann Simpson, Executive Director Field Operations & Appeals, GDVS
Ms. Veda Brooks, Women Veterans & Diversity Coordinator, GDVS
Mr. Steven Fay, Assistant Director Veterans Training Division, GDVS
Ms. Irene Mackson, Business Support Analyst, GDVS
Ms. Julie Hammond, Foundation CFO, Commissioner's Executive Assistant, GDVS

On Thursday, October 5, 2023, the Veterans Service Foundation Board meeting was held in person and by video/tele-conference.

Joe Higgins called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Everyone in the GDVS Conference Room was introduced for the benefit of those who joined the meeting virtually.

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

REPORT ON STATUS OF FUNDING:

A spreadsheet was presented which shows an accounting of income and expenditures for the Foundation. The current balance is \$13,895.85.

Commissioner Ross announced that she requested \$2 million from the state to seed the Foundation. If approved, the plan is to keep \$1 million in the bank and use the other to assist veterans.

FUNDING PRIORITIES:

Funding priorities were discussed, which track with the Board, the VA and GDVS. They are:

1. Housing
2. Education
3. Transportation
4. Food insecurity
5. Mental and behavioral health

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OLD BUSINESS:

There was a discussion regarding the hiring of a person/company to do fundraising. It was decided that we will use a Request for Proposal process. Commissioner Ross mentioned the Survey Monkey Apply program we have to solicit applications. This could be used to cull down the list of interested parties. It was suggested that the company chosen be paid based on incentive rather than a percentage of monies raised.

Ms. Barnwell will work to identify the parameters for the RFP. Commissioner Ross will check with DBHDD to see how they run their process.

The plan is to identify the companies that are interested and schedule a time to meet with them virtually to hear their pitch and have a Q&A time. The decision on who to hire can be made at the next Board meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Veterans Military Hall of Fame induction ceremony and banquet will be on Nov. 4th in Columbus as 12:00pm. There will be 15 inductees, of which Commissioner Ross is one.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. White suggested the Board members have talking points to use with various groups to present our vision and fundraising priorities. Ms. Barnwell noted that these could vary based on the audience.

The December 7 meeting was scheduled. The special session will be scheduled separately.

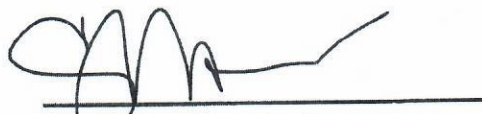
The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:32 a.m.

SIGNED:



Joe Higgins, Chair

ATTEST:



Samantha Brown-Parks, Secretary