

Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs Minutes
Wednesday, 07 November 2018
Wings Over The Rockies
7711 E. Academy Boulevard
Denver, CO 80230

Members and Guests

Members Present:

Duane Dailey, Chair
Jack Rudder, Vice Chair
Hollie Caldwell, Secretary
Patricia Hammon, Member
Norm Steen, Member
Sheila Scanlon, Member
Longinos Gonzalez Jr., Member

DMVA Staff Present:

Mickey Hunt, DMVA Deputy Executive Director
David Callahan, Interim CDVA East Director
Gail Hoagland, CDVA Grants Administrator
Carissa Snyder, CDVA Program Assistant

Guests Present:

Lynne Robinson, veteran
Robby Robinson, CBVA liaison to SVCLC Commission and Veterans Monument Trust
Theresa Rudder, President, General Federation of Women's Clubs of Colorado

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Opening:

Mr. Dailey called the meeting to order at 0900 hours. Proceedings began with a recitation of the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for POWs, MIAs, and troops overseas. Mr. Dailey greeted all in attendance. The Board members identified themselves for the record and for the benefit of the guests. Mr. Dailey then invited introductions from around the room.

Board Member Comments

Ms. Scanlon said she will represent CBVA at the 13 November UVC meeting. She will continue to serve on the UVC legislative committee. The legislation regarding the woman veteran license is in process. She said that she has recently had positive experiences with the Rocky Mountain Regional VAMC. She will be in Arizona on 10 November for the 240th anniversary celebration of the United States Marine Corps.

Ms. Caldwell had no comments.

Ms. Hammon said that the Grand Junction Stand Down on 26 October was well attended. The Eagle County Board of Commissioners has prepared a resolution proclaiming the week of Veterans Day to Veterans Week in the county. The annual Veteran of the Year Award will be presented and this year a second award will be presented to the Veteran Volunteer of the Year. Twenty school programs are

scheduled in observance of Veterans Day. A representative from the Center for American Values will present in Eagle on 09 November, in Glenwood Springs on 10 November, and in Edwards on 11 November. The Western Regional VAMC will host a town hall and outreach event in December.

Mr. Steen said that COL (ret) Van Arsdale will be a guest speaker at a private event in Woodland Park. Mr. Arsdale is a silver star and purple heart recipient who served 11 years in the 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment-Delta.

Mr. Gonzalez said that internments have begun at the Pikes Peak National Cemetery. He attended a recent veterans' roundtable hosted by the Mount Carmel Veterans Service Center. The El Paso County Veterans Day parade was last week and a reception honoring USS Arizona survivor Don Stratton. Fort Carson is receiving an award from the Pentagon on acknowledgement of its ongoing partnership with the surrounding community.

Mr. Rudder said that he will speak the Homelake CLC in honor of Veterans Days. Operation Healing Waters is again in operations and trips will resume next week.

Mr. Dailey said that there are several Veterans Day events scheduled in Grand County, including the annual gathering at Snow Mountain Ranch in Granby on 12 November. More than 400 attendees are expected and the featured speaker will be retired Major General Doug Anson.

Public Comments

Mr. Robinson summarized his history with DMVA and CBVA for the benefit of the new board members, including his tenure as deputy executive director at DMVA and his years of service on the board. He currently serves at the CBVA liaison to the SVCLC Commission and the Veterans Monument Trust.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Dailey provided a correction to the draft of the September 2018 minutes, adding details regarding board members' attendance at the Adjutant General's visits to the SVCLCS. The minutes were then approved as corrected.

Reports

Mr. Hunt said that he will attend the Denver Stand Down on 08 November. He will also attend the JBC staff briefing scheduled for 16 November and the budget hearings scheduled for 20 November. Budget items anticipated for discussion include support for the Western Slope One Source and the funding for the director for DVA West. He will speak at the Fort Logan Veterans Day event, where General Edwards will serve as master of ceremonies and General Loh will be the keynote speaker. A SMART Act briefing is scheduled for 14 December at the capitol.

Mr. Callahan said that DVA East has a table at the day's Wings over the Rockies event and will participate in the Veteran Day parade on 09 November. He will initiate an evaluation of the division during his time as interim director and will work on developing a new strategic plan. The prospective pilot of the Paris project is still under discussion within the JBC.

Mr. Robinson said that the interest from the Veterans Monument trust is designated for monument's upkeep. Right now the fund is short of what is needed for repairs. In regard to the SVCLCs, CDHS has submitted a budget request that intends to raise salaries for direct care staff. The proposal would phase in the salary increases over the next two years. Staffing at Rifle and at Homelake is so low that the facilities cannot admit new patients. Fitzsimons experience high staff turnover and currently both director and assistant director positions are vacant. The next commission meeting on the topic is scheduled for 21 November. It was moved by Ms. Hammon and seconded by Mr. Steen that a CBVA member attend that meeting and the motion carried. Ms. Caldwell volunteered to attend. It was moved by Ms. Scanlon and seconded by Mr. Steen that the pending letter to the TAG concerning this topic be postponed pending Ms. Cadwell's report. The motion carried.

Ms. Hoagland referred the board to her submitted report. The monitoring visits performed thus far have gone well. Several more are on the calendar. Mr. Steen said that the recent visit to Woodland Park was both productive and positive. Ms. Scanlon said there have been complaints to the UVC legislative committee that the grant process is too complicated. Mr. Dailey said that the current rules comply with the requirements of the state auditors. Ms. Scanlon invited Ms. Hoagland to return to a UVC general meeting to address the concerns.

Discussion and Action Items

Transportation Vehicles and VA

Ms. Hoagland said that agencies using grant-purchased vehicles have encountered a complication. Historically the practice has been for these organizations to turn the vehicle title over to VA, as VA would then assume the costs of license plates, insurance, and maintenance. However, current VA policy does not allow VA vehicles to be used to transport veterans to non-VA medical appointments. She requested that the board consider approving the above-mentioned expenses as program costs that can be included in a grant budget. It was so moved by Ms. Caldwell and seconded by Ms. Hammon. The motion carried.

VTF Application Changes

Ms. Hoagland has not received any suggestions. She will adjust the application instructions in regard to the new rules concerning vehicle expenses. Mr. Rudder moved that the application be accepted with this change and Mr. Gonzalez seconded. The motion carried.

New Business

None

Upcoming Meetings:

07 December City and County of Denver
04 January Fitzsimons SVCLC, Aurora

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Steen moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Rudder. The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.