

February 02, 2023

Board Chambers

Veterans Commission

MINUTES

Members

Dr. Vanessa M. Gattis
Tom Gordy
Nancy Jean-Louis

Donnell E. Johns, Sr.
Cheryl S. H. Lamar
Tim Parrish

Present: Commissioners Vanessa Gattis, Tom Gordy, Nancy Jean-Louis, Donnell E. Johns Sr., Tim Parrish; Director of Human Resources Joseph Gilkerson and Admins Stacy Anderson and Veronica Marquez. Chair Tom Gordy called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Minutes

- Minutes of January 5, 2022 were approved (Gattis-motion/Jean-Louis-seconded/Unanimous).

Public Comment Time

- None.

Administrative Remarks

- Discussed the vacancies of the Gainesville district and the Chair at Large. The Chair at Large vacancy currently has two names for a potential replacement. Those two individuals have been invited to attend a meeting for information on the Commission. The Gainesville vacancy cannot be filled until there is a replacement for the Gainesville Supervisor.
- Notified Commission that the new County Executive, Christopher Shorter, has been informed of the Commission.
- Discussed a letter received from Supervisor Lawson regarding military widow's taxes.

Work Session

- Commission nominated and voted for Tim Parrish to serve as the Chair (Gattis-motion/Johns Sr.-seconded/Unanimous).
- Commission nominated and voted for Dr. Vanessa Gattis to serve as the Vice-Chair (Johns Sr.-motion/Jean-Louis-seconded/Unanimous).
- The Commission chose to hold voting for the Secretary until a later date when the vacancies are filled.

- Discussed edits to the standing rules. Commissioner Jean-Louis spoke about the missing items from the standing rules. The Commission discussed edits including:
 - Voting procedures
 - Provision for Chair if they leave (special election and Vice-Chair will serve in their place)
 - Include language for guest speaker time:
 - Discussed 15 minute limit if there is more than one speaker
 - Discussed 20 minutes if more than one speaker
 - Discussed 20 minutes time limit for Q&A session after speaker with Chair being able to extend time if necessary.
 - Commission will discuss the changes and vote on changes at next meeting.
- Discussed reviewing past quarterly reports that were sent to the board from the Chair.
- Guest speaker, Caitlin Goodale-Porter, was added as a last minute addition to speak to the Commission regarding issues she has had with Chapter 35 benefits.

Old Business

- None.

New Business

- None.

Commissioners Time

- Commissioner Johns Sr. – Chose to give his time to a guest speaker, Caitlin Goodale-Porter, to speak regarding Chapter 35 (education benefits for dependents) issues. Thanked Commission for being nominated as the Vice-Chair but said he had too many items on his plate and would not be able to fulfill the commitment. Also thanked Dr. Gattis for becoming the Vice-Chair.
- Commissioner Parrish – Thanked the Commission for their vote of confidence and he is looking forward to a great year.
- Commissioner Gattis – Thanked the Commission for their vote of confidence and she is also looking forward to a great year. Notified the Commission of an article that can be found on VA News as well as CBS News regarding Veterans in crisis. Veterans in suicidal crisis will be eligible for free care at any VA or private facility. She requested that this article be forwarded to all of the Commissioners.
- Commissioner Gordy – Discussed Planning Commission grant conversations regarding mobility. Discussed the need for transportation with the Transportation department. He will see if there are any grants to meet the need.

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm. (Parrish-motion/Gattis-seconded/unanimous)