

# Texas Veterans Commission Meeting Minutes

Special Meeting (FY 2010)  
February 19, 2010

## **I. Call to order**

Chair Rankin called to order the Special Meeting of the Texas Veterans Commission at 8:32 a.m. on February 19, 2010, in Room 170 of the Stephen F. Austin Building, 1700 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas 78701.

The following Commissioners were present:

Karen S. Rankin, Chair  
T.P. O'Mahoney, Vice Chairman  
Eliseo "Al" Cantu, Secretary  
John B. McKinney, Member

Also present was James E. Nier, Executive Director.

Also present: See the attached list.

Chair Rankin began by commending the Marketing staff on the quality of the Journal and the excellent work of the Marketing team.

## **II. Approval of minutes from last meeting**

The minutes of the Workshop held on January 27, 2010 were previously distributed to the Commissioners.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Workshop as presented.

MADE BY: Secretary Cantu

SECONDED BY: Commissioner McKinney

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

## **III. Approval of minutes from last meeting**

The minutes of the Special Meeting held on January 28, 2010 were previously distributed to the Commissioners.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Special Meeting as presented.

MADE BY: Secretary Cantu  
SECONDED BY: Commissioner McKinney  
ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Review and approval of course materials for Annual Spring Conference and Initial Training for County Service Officers and TVC Staff**

The course materials were previously distributed to the Commissioners.

MOTION: Approve the Veterans County Service Officer course materials as presented.

MADE BY: Commissioner McKinney

SECONDED BY: Secretary Cantu

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

**V. Report, presentation and/or action regarding TVC Fund for Veterans' Assistance Grant**

David Nobles, Grant Coordinator, made introductions and turned meeting over to General Thomas G. Smith (Chair, Fund for Veterans' Assistance Advisory Committee). General Smith began the presentation outlining the three items for discussion today: (1) Awarding Grant I; (2) Review of Letter of Interest and Grant documents for Grant II and (3) Structure of the Fund for Veterans' Assistance (FVA) Advisory Committee.

David Nobles continued the presentation with the scoring of the FVA Advisory Committee and staff. He discussed the summary document, document 3A, and explained the process of the scoring. Final scores were Texas VFW Foundation – 96; American GI Forum – 79.8 and Smith County Red Cross - 79.8. Mr. Nobles then corrected an error in proofing and requested commission action for awarding Grant I of no more than \$1,000,000.

MOTION: To award the TVC Grant I to the Texas VFW Foundation in the amount of \$1,000,000 as presented.

MADE BY: Chair Rankin

SECONDED BY: Secretary Cantu

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

General Smith then addressed the Commissioners to commend Roy Grona for an excellent job serving as Chair of the FVA Advisory Committee through November 1, 2009. He reminded the Commission that Mr. Grona had no interest or involvement with the grant process.

David Nobles continued the presentation. He reported that an estimated \$3,000,000 will be available for second round of grants. He thanked the Commissioners for their input on the grant documents and assured them all requested changes would be made.

MOTION: To approve the Letter of Interest (LOI) Guidelines (Tab 4A) as amended.

MADE BY: Secretary Cantu

SECONDED BY: Vice Chairman O'Mahoney

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion continued with edits to the Instructions for Submitting a LOI.

MOTION: To approve the Instructions for Submitting a LOI (Tab 4B) as amended.

MADE BY: Commissioner McKinney

SECONDED BY: Secretary Cantu

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion continued with edits to the Application Information and Instructions. Suggestion was made to repeat paragraph H. Funding considerations in the already amended and approved LOI instructions.

MOTION: To append paragraph H. Funding Considerations to already amended and approved LOI Instructions.

MADE BY: Chair Rankin

SECONDED BY: All Commissioners

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Rankin requested a short break at 10:15 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:32 a.m.

Discussion resumed and edits were made to the Application Information and Instructions.

MOTION: To approve the Application Information and Instructions (Tab 4C) as amended.

MADE BY: Vice Chairman O'Mahoney

SECONDED BY: Commissioner McKinney

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting continued with edits to the Grant Application.

MOTION: To approve the Grant Application (Tab 4D) as amended.

MADE BY: Secretary Cantu

SECONDED BY: Commissioner McKinney

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting continued with discussion of Timelines for Second, Third and Fourth Grants.

MOTION: To approve the Calendars with adjustments on 3 and 4 as necessary (Tab 4E).

MADE BY: Commissioner McKinney

SECONDED BY: Vice Chairman O'Mahoney

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting continued with review of four new designs for upcoming games for the lottery ticket. FVA Advisory Committee recommended two designs to the Commissioners.

MOTION: To approve two lottery ticket designs as recommended.

MADE BY: Chair Rankin

SECONDED BY: Secretary Cantu

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

**VI. Agenda items for next meeting**

Chair Rankin requested the Commissioners email their agenda items for next meeting.

**VII. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The Third Quarterly Meeting for FY 2010 was scheduled for 8:30 a.m. on May 17, 2010, Room 170 at the Stephen F. Austin Building, Austin, Texas.

**VIII. Public Comment**

General Smith updated the Commissioners on the FVA Advisory Committee structure. He reported on the sub-committees and commended all members for their dedication. He also thanked David Nobles and TVC staff for their hard work and support.

**IX. Commissioners' Closing Comments**

Chair Rankin commended General Smith and the FVA Advisory Committee on an outstanding job. She asked that he extend her thanks and appreciation to all committee members.

Commissioner O'Mahoney commended Chair Rankin for her outstanding letter to the VA.

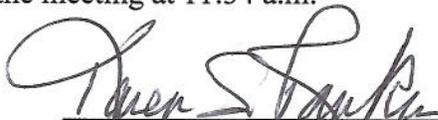
Commissioner McKinney questioned whether Ms. Cernoch was resigning her position with the FVA Advisory Committee and Mr. Nobles replied not at this time.

Chair Rankin also reported that a resolution is being drafted for Commissioners to consider in connection with Morgan Little's question on Blue Water Navy.

**X. Adjournment**

Chair Rankin adjourned the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

Minutes Approved by:

  
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Karen S. Rankin, Chair



**TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION**

Special Commission Meeting

Fiscal Year 2010

February 19, 2010

8:30 a.m.

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**Roy Grona**

VFW, Department of Texas, Adjutant/Quartermaster

**Jacinda Johnson**

Transition Assistance Advisor, Texas Military Forces, Camp Mabry

**Jack Mason**

Budget Analyst, Legislative Budget Board

**John McKinny**

State Director, U.S. Department of Labor  
Veterans' Employment & Training Service

**Kyle Mitchell**

Governor's Advisor  
Office of the Budget, Planning & Policy

**Jim K. Palmer**

Senior Policy Analyst  
Veterans Communication Action Teams  
Project Coordinator  
Altarum Institute

**General Thomas G. Smith**

Chair, Fund for Veterans Assistance Advisory Committee

**Julio Trevino**

Member, Fund for Veterans Assistance Advisory Committee

**David Weaver**

Attorney, State Securities Board  
Member, Fund for Veterans Assistance Advisory Committee