

Texas Veterans Commission Meeting Minutes

Special Meeting (FY 2010)
April 7, 2010

I. Call to order

Chair Rankin called to order the Special Meeting of the Texas Veterans Commission at 9:30 a.m. on April 7, 2010, at the VFW Post 8790, 1560 Foley Street, Houston, Texas.

II. Roll call

The following Commissioners were present:

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

TVC Staff attending:

James Nier
Charles Buerschinger
David Nobles
Tina Carnes
Connie Lyssy
Freddy Ruiz
Paula Ornelas
Cheryl Sites

Also attending:

See attached list

III. Discussion-Guidance for Advisory Committee

Chair Rankin introduced guests and new TVC employees present at the meeting – Freddy Ruiz – TVC fund accountant, and Paula Ornelas – TVC legal assistant.

Chair Rankin began by stating the purpose of today's special meeting was to discuss the Fund for Veterans' Assistance. Chair Rankin asked David Nobles, TVC Grant Coordinator, to give his report on the grant process.

David Nobles, Grant Coordinator, gave an update of the Grant II solicitations: 68 Letters of Interest with 47 invites to submit a grant application.

Mr. Nobles requested clarification regarding grant applications that will not be funded. Specifically, should the denied applications automatically be considered for funding in the next grant, or should the applicants be asked to reapply for future grants? After discussion, the following motion was called for:

MOTION: Applications not funded will be returned to applicant with a letter stating that the application can be resubmitted during the next grant process, allowing applicant the opportunity to make any necessary changes.

MADE BY: Vice Chairman O'Mahoney

SECONDED BY: Secretary Cantu

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

After a discussion on IRS 501(c) organizations, a decision was made that the Disabled American Veterans Letter of Interest would not be accepted during the current grant process and that the Letter of Interest would be reworded.

MOTION: A motion was made to add 501(c)(4) organizations to the approval criteria going forward, beginning with Grant III.

MADE BY: Chair Rankin

SECONDED BY: Secretary Cantu

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Nobles asked the Commissioners what paperwork they would like to review from the applications received. After discussion, the Commissioners agreed that they would like to receive the grant application and budget information only.

After a discussion on duplicative services, it was decided that all applications would be reviewed and evaluated based on each one's merit, regardless of the possibility of duplication of services offered in the community.

Mr. Nobles reviewed with Commissioners proposed changes to the grant application documents for Grant III based on questions and issues received during the course of Grants I and II. Discussions were held regarding proposed changes to the Letter of Interest General Guidelines, and Letter of Interest Instructions.

Chair Rankin adjourned the meeting at 11:23 a.m. in order to attend the Governor's Press Conference to present ceremonial \$1M check to the Veterans of Foreign Wars as the result of the Fund for Veterans' Assistance scratch-off lottery game.

Chair Rankin reconvened the workshop at 12:37 p.m.

Mr. Nobles resumed review of proposed changes to the grant application documents for Grant III. Discussions were held on the Application Information and Instructions, Grant Application, and Calendar. Mr. Nobles proposed a request to the Commissioners to reduce the number of grants per year from four to three due to the amount of work involved in processing each grant – by both TVC Staff and the FVA Advisory Committee members. After discussion of the proposal, the following motion was called for:

MOTION: To scale back the number of grants per year from four to three.

MADE BY: Commissioner McKinney

SECONDED BY: Vice Chairman O'Mahoney

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

The calendar of timelines for Grant III was revisited and consideration of the timeline for Grant IV and future grants was discussed. Commissioner McKinney suggested the FVA Advisory Committee lay out a two-year schedule of timelines for future grants, taking into consideration the upcoming legislature and other important dates.

MOTION: To approve the proposed changes to the grant application documents as discussed, with exception to the calendar.

MADE BY: Commissioner McKinney

SECONDED BY: Vice Chairman O'Mahoney

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

The revised documents will be forwarded to the Commissioners for their review.

IV. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The Commissioners agreed to schedule another special meeting for Thursday, May 6, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. in the TVC conference room.

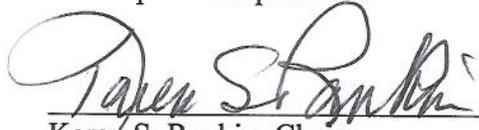
V. Commissioners' Closing Comments

Chair Rankin thanked General Smith and the FVA Advisory Committee for all their hard work.

VI. **Adjournment**

Chair Rankin adjourned the workshop at 1:37 p.m.

Minutes Approved by:



Karen S. Rankin, Chair



TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION

Special Commission Meeting

Fiscal Year 2010

April 7, 2010

9:30 a.m.

Don Daft

Department Commander, American Legion, Department of Texas

Roy Grona

VFW, Department of Texas, Adjutant/Quartermaster

General Thomas G. Smith

Chair, Fund for Veterans Assistance Advisory Committee