

Texas Veterans Commission Meeting Minutes

Special Meeting (FY 2011)
April 13, 2011

I. Call to Order

Chairman O'Mahoney called to order the Special Meeting of the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) at 11:02 a.m. on April 13, 2011, in Conference Room 800-I in Suite 800 of the Stephen F. Austin Building at 1700 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas 78701.

The following Commissioners were present:

T.P. O'Mahoney, Chairman
Eliseo "Al" Cantu, Vice Chairman
Richard A. McLeon, IV, Member
Daniel P. Moran, Member
James H. Scott, Member

Also present was Thomas P. Palladino, Executive Director.

Also present: See the attached list.

Vice Chairman Cantu gave the opening prayer. Commissioner Scott led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas flag.

Chairman O'Mahoney welcomed visitors, and new employees were introduced: Cheri Smith with Veterans Employment Services, Troy Davenport and Aly Taylor with the Fund for Veterans' Assistance, and Bebe Glasgow with Veterans Education.

Chairman O'Mahoney expressed his appreciation of Thomas Palladino, Kyle Mitchell, Rick Svatora, and all the directors for representing the Agency during this Legislative Session.

II. Approval of Minutes from Previous Commission Meetings

The minutes were previously distributed to the Commissioners.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Second Quarterly Meeting held on January 25, 2011, as presented.

MADE BY: Commissioner Scott

SECONDED BY: Vice Chairman Cantu

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Special Commission Meeting held on February 24, 2011, as presented.

MADE BY: Commissioner Scott

SECONDED BY: Vice Chairman Cantu

ACTION: The motion passed by a vote of four (4) to one (1).

III. Report, Presentation and/or Action regarding Fund for Veterans' Assistance (FVA) Program Update

Bill Wilson, Director, Fund for Veterans' Assistance, began by commending his staff for all the great work they have done. Mr. Wilson provided an overview of the FVA program update handouts previously provided to the Commissioners. Discussion was held regarding monitoring procedures and standards for current grantees. Vice Chairman Cantu requested to amend the first item under Standard 1 on the "Summary of On-Site Monitoring Visit" form to include a request for employee job descriptions.

Discussion was held regarding proposed rules, new Chapter 460, regarding the FVA grant program, the status of comments received, and next steps going forward.

Mr. Wilson distributed additional handouts to Commissioners for their information regarding the status of current FVA grant cycle applicants, and procedures for processing and evaluating grant applications. Vice Chairman Cantu requested the "FVA Applicants" pie chart be revised in the future to include the geographic region of each applicant. Mr. Wilson made a recommendation to be discussed at a future meeting to designate a standard amount for MHMR applicants, similar to the Veterans Court applicants.

Discussion was held regarding the new procedures for reviewing and evaluating applicants, and the methodology of categorizing applications for consideration for funding. Vice Chairman Cantu and Commissioner McLeon requested a summary of the applicant evaluation criteria.

IV. Report, Presentation and/or Action regarding FVA Grantee Performance

Bill Wilson presented the Fund for Veterans' Assistance Grant Performance Through February 28, 2011 handout previously provided to the Commissioners. Discussion was held regarding grant monitoring procedures.

V. Report, Presentation and/or Action regarding FVA Grant Agreement Amendments and Renewals

Bill Wilson presented a grant agreement amendment request from grantee, United Way of San Antonio & Bexar County, for approval.

MOTION: To approve the Grant Agreement amendment as presented.

MADE BY: Commissioner McLeon

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Scott

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Report, Presentation and/or Action regarding FVA Amendment Policy

Bill Wilson presented two options of Amendment Procedures. Discussion was held, and option 2 was revised as follows: The Executive Director will provide notification to the Commissioners of all changes approved by the Executive Director.

MOTION: To approve option 2 of the Amendment Procedures as revised.

MADE BY: Commissioner Moran

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Scott

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman O'Mahoney recessed the meeting for a break at 12:25 p.m.

Chairman O'Mahoney reconvened the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

VII. Review and approve Spring Training Conference examinations

Jim Richman, Director, Claims Representation and Counseling, presented the Initial Training, Certification Training, and Accreditation Training examinations to be administered at the TVC Spring Training Conference.

MOTION: To approve the examinations as presented.

MADE BY: Commissioner Moran

SECONDED BY: Commissioner McLeon

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Report, presentation and/or Action regarding Legislative Update

Rick Svatora, Legislative Liaison, presented a summary and status of bills that are priorities for the Agency in the 82nd Texas Legislature.

Chairman O'Mahoney, on behalf of the Commissioners, thanked Mr. Svatora and those involved in legislative activities for all their hard work.

IX. Discussion of Date, Time and Location of Next Commission Meeting

The 3rd Quarterly Commission Meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, May 18, 2011, at 8:00 a.m. in Room 170 of the Stephen F. Austin Building.

X. Public comment

None.

XI. Executive Session

Chairman O'Mahoney adjourned into Executive Session at 1:05 p.m.

Chairman O'Mahoney reconvened in Open Meeting at 1:30 p.m.

XII. Discuss and take Possible Action on the Items considered in Executive Session

Chairman O'Mahoney reported there was no action taken in Executive Session.

XIII. Commissioners' closing comments

The Commissioners welcomed new Commissioner Moran, and extended their gratitude to staff for all their support and hard work. Vice Chairman Cantu complimented the TVC employees who attended the National Guard event recently held in Corpus Christi. Commissioner Moran expressed his appreciation for the reception he has received. Commissioner Scott reported that he and Vice Chairman Cantu attended the memorial service for Commissioner McKinney.

XIV. Adjournment

Chairman O'Mahoney adjourned the meeting at 1:37 p.m.

Minutes Approved by:



T.P. O'Mahoney, Chairman



TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION

Special Commission Meeting - Fiscal Year 2011

April 13, 2011 11:00 a.m.

SFA Bldg – 8th Floor – Room 800-I

Ken Wallingford

Veterans Liaison, Texas Veterans Land Board