

Texas Veterans Commission Meeting Minutes

Commission Workshop (FY 2010)

June 29, 2010

I. Call to order

Chair Rankin called to order the Special Meeting of the Texas Veterans Commission at 10:05 a.m. on June 29, 2010, in Suite 800 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.

TVC Staff Present:
Charles Buerschinger
Connie Jacksits
Duncan McGhee
Cruz Montemayor
David Nobles
Jim Richman
Irma Rodriguez
Steven Wilkins
Bill Wilson

Chair Rankin announced introductions of visitors.

Chair Rankin began by stating the purpose of this Special Meeting is to have a workshop on our Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR).

II. Approval of minutes from Special Meeting on May 6, 2010

The minutes of the Special Meeting held on May 6, 2010 were previously distributed to the Commissioners.

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

MADE BY: Secretary Cantu
SECONDED BY: Vice Chairman O'Mahoney
ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

III. Approval of minutes from Third Quarterly Commission Meeting on May 17, 2010

The minutes of the Third Quarterly Commission Meeting held on May 17, 2010 were previously distributed to the Commissioners.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Commission Meeting as presented.
MADE BY: Secretary Cantu
SECONDED BY: Commissioner McKinney
ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Report, Presentation and/or Action regarding TVC Fund for Veterans' Assistance Grant I Contract Amendment

David Nobles presented the proposed amendment to the Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation (VFW Foundation) Grant Agreement from Grant I. The VFW Foundation is requesting to fund one additional employee to assist with program operations due to unprecedented response to the program. Mr. Nobles noted a correction to the cost: \$25,836 should be \$12,918. VFW will match this amount to create the full salary.

MOTION: To approve the amendment as presented with correction.
MADE BY: Vice Chairman O'Mahoney
SECONDED BY: Commissioner McKinney
ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chairman O'Mahoney recommended this same method be used to review and approve future grant contract amendments.

Mr. Nobles presented the artwork for the next veteran lottery scratch-off ticket that will be available July 19, 2010. Chair Rankin recommended coordinated advertising efforts between TVC Marketing and other veterans' organizations for lottery scratch-off games.

Commissioner McKinney inquired regarding the number of veterans and families that have been served so far by the Fund for Veterans' Assistance, and by what types of

grants. He also asked how often the Commissioners will be updated with this information going forward.

TVC staff agreed to provide monthly reports to Commissioners with the number of veterans and families helped, including the type of grant, and geographic distribution.

V. Report, Presentation and/or Action regarding Legislative Appropriations Request

Vice Chairman O'Mahoney, appointed by Chair Rankin to be the Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) coordinator with TVC staff, provided opening comments. He noted TVC is still waiting on a baseline. In today's meeting, the Exceptional Items and justification would be reviewed and discussed with the Directors.

Charles Buerschinger provided a status update of the baseline and noted that when the baseline number comes out Directors will make adjustments to their list of Exceptional Items as necessary. The Administrator's Statement and Exceptional Items will be established before July 20.

Duncan McGhee, Director of Marketing – Requesting funds for proactive outreach to veterans and their families; Public Service Announcements to educate the public to position TVC as a service provider to veterans. Commissioners requested additional information to support the justification and performance measures.

Jim Richman, Director of Claims Representation and Counseling – Requesting 7 additional Veterans Service Representatives FTE in the field to expand claims services due to changes in VA claims procedures, and increase in veteran population; Requesting additional 6 Veterans Service Representatives FTE at the Waco Regional Office to process the projected estimate of new Agent Orange claims; Requesting additional 6 Veterans Service Representatives FTE at the Houston Regional Office to continue the program put in place by Governor Perry to assist with processing the backlog of VA Claims. These FTEs will replace the existing CPAT (Claims Processing Assistance Team) that will expire in November 2010. Commissioners suggested additional figures and detail breakdown to support justification.

Steven Wilkins, Information Resources Manager – Requesting 1 additional Information Resources support position based on recent audit results, and 1 additional utility server to provide critical services during an outage to avoid as much disruption in service as possible.

Central Administration - Requesting an increase in Executive Director salary to maintain parity with other positions of similar responsibility in State government, and to avoid the loss of key executive staff.

Summary of Exceptional Items: 20 FTEs; \$2,327,016 dollars for biennium request.

VI. Recommendations for Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Travel policy to be reviewed at the August 13, 2010 meeting. LAR Workshop on July 20, 2010. LAR must be provided on August 9, 2010, so it must be approved at the July 20 meeting. The Executive Director position also needs to be discussed.

VII. Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting

LAR Workshop on July 20, 2010; Fourth Quarterly Commission Meeting to be held on August 13, 2010.

VIII. Public Comments

None.

IX. Executive Session

Chair Rankin adjourned the meeting to go into Executive Session at 11:50 a.m.

Chair Rankin reconvened the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

X. Discussion and take possible action on the items considered in Executive Session

None.

XI. Commissioner's Closing Comments

Commissioner Cantu thought this was a good workshop and emphasized the need for staff to have all relevant facts and figures together before presenting them at Commission Meetings in the future.

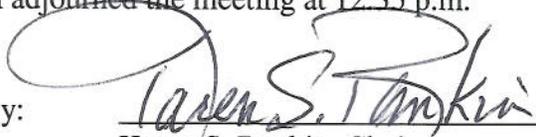
Vice Chairman O'Mahoney requested Commissioners look at each of the Exceptional Items and rank them in preparation for the next meeting on July 20, 2010.

Mr. Nier provided a brief recap of action items: Nothing for the LAR was approved at this meeting. Revised Exceptional Items and baseline will be provided to Commissioners for approval at the meeting on July 20. Exceptional Items must be submitted on August 9, 2010. A first draft of Administrator's Statement will be sent to Commissioners. Edits will be made as needed at the meeting on July 20.

XII. Adjourn Meeting

Chair Rankin adjourned the meeting at 12:35 p.m.

Minutes Approved by:



Karen S. Rankin, Chair



TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION

LAR Workshop - Commission Meeting

Fiscal Year 2010

June 29, 2010

10:00 a.m.

Jacinda Johnson

Transition Assistance Advisor
Texas Military Forces, Camp Mabry

Morgan Little

Employers Support of the Guard and Reserve
Legislative Affairs Chair
Chair, Texas Coalition of Veteran Organizations

Kyle Mitchell

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