

Texas Veterans Commission Meeting Minutes

Special Meeting (FY 2011)
July 12, 2011

I. Call to Order

Chairman O'Mahoney called to order the Special Meeting of the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) at 10:00 a.m. on July 12, 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
Richard A. McLeon, IV, Member
Daniel P. Moran, Member
James H. Scott, Member

*Eliseo "Al" Cantu, Vice Chairman – attended via teleconference

Also present was Thomas P. Palladino, Executive Director.

Also present: See the attached list.

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

Chairman O'Mahoney welcomed visitors to the meeting. He introduced new employee, Laura Arthur, Veterans Employment Services Operations Specialist, and announced the addition of Ashley Holcomb, Grant Accountant, to the Fund for Veterans' Assistance staff.

II. Public Comment

None.

III. Approval of Minutes from May 18, 2011 Commission Meeting

The minutes were previously distributed to the Commissioners.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Third Quarterly Meeting held on May 18, 2011, as presented.

MADE BY: Commissioner Scott

SECONDED BY: Commissioner McLeon

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Election of Secretary of Commission

Nomination was made and seconded on election of Secretary of the Commission.

MOTION: To elect Commissioner James H. Scott, as Secretary.

MADE BY: Commissioner McLeon

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Moran

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

V. Report, Presentation and/or Action regarding Legislative Update

Rick Svatora, Manager, Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs, presented the final status of bills of interest for the Agency at the conclusion of the 82nd Texas Legislature. The Commissioners requested a list of deliverables and goals resulting from the legislative session, and planned further review and discussion on administering the Veterans Housing Assistance Program, and for implementing requirements related to Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS).

VI. Report, Presentation and/or Action on Fund for Veterans' Assistance (FVA) grant priorities

Bill Wilson, Director, Fund for Veterans' Assistance, requested guidance from the Commissioners on establishing priorities for soliciting and evaluating grant applications for the next application period beginning in August. The Commissioners agreed to keep the existing service categories, including financial assistance, homelessness, transportation support and family services, without prioritizing any categories. No set percentage of funding was assigned for any category of service, and geographic priorities were not established. The Commissioners agreed that all applicants, regardless of size or amount requested, are to be considered equally, as long as the applicant provides a quality application and deliverables. No further action was taken.

VII. Report, Presentation and/or Action regarding FVA grant ranking

Bill Wilson presented an overview of the current grant application review process. The procedures for ranking grant applications that are not initially recommended for funding were reviewed and discussed. The Commissioners agreed the list of alternate applicants should be ranked in order by highest rating to lowest. Mr. Wilson continued with a

review of the Application Evaluation Form, and Application Rating Summary. No further action was taken.

VIII. Report, Presentation and/or Action regarding FVA Program Update

Bill Wilson presented to the Commissioners, for their information, a list of the grant agreement amendments that were approved by the Executive Director since April 2011. Mr. Wilson then presented the FVA Monitoring Report for April through July 2011, and briefly reviewed the monitoring visits performed by the FVA grant monitors.

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

The Fourth Quarterly Commission Meeting was previously scheduled for August 10, 2011, at 8:00 a.m., in Room 170 of the Stephen F. Austin Building.

X. Executive Session

Chairman O'Mahoney adjourned into Executive Session at 11:10 a.m.

Chairman O'Mahoney reconvened in Open Meeting at 11:50 a.m.

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

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

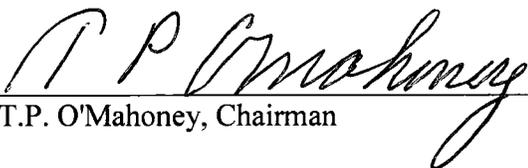
XII. Commissioners' closing comments

The Commissioners extended their gratitude to staff for all their support and hard work.

XIII. Adjournment

Chairman O'Mahoney adjourned the meeting at 11:52 a.m.

Minutes Approved by:


T.P. O'Mahoney, Chairman



TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION

Special Commission Meeting

Fiscal Year 2011

July 12, 2011

10:00 a.m.

Stephen F. Austin Bldg. -- Room 800-I

Chelsea Buccholtz

Governor's Advisor

Office of the Governor

Beth Creasey

VFW, Department of Texas

Veterans Assistance Program Coordinator

General Thomas G. Smith

Chair, Fund for Veterans' Assistance Advisory Committee

Ken Wallingford

Veterans Liaison, Texas Veterans Land Board