

Texas Veterans Commission Meeting Minutes

Special Meeting (FY 2011)
December 2, 2010

I. Call to Order

Chairman O'Mahoney called to order the Special Meeting of the Texas Veterans Commission at 10:00 a.m. on December 2, 2010, in the TVC Conference Room 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
John B. McKinney, Secretary
Richard A. McLeon, IV, Member
James H. Scott, Member

Also present was Thomas P. Palladino, Executive Director.

Also present: See the attached list.

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

Chairman O'Mahoney opened the meeting with an introduction and welcome of visitors.

II. (a) Discussion and/or Action regarding Grant Procedures; Contracting Process and Tracking

David Nobles, Director of Fund for Veterans' Assistance (FVA), presented the contracting process timeframes and overview of the contract process. After discussion, the Commissioners accepted the procedures as presented. Chairman O'Mahoney requested to see a draft of the proposed grants rules presented to the Commissioners no later than first quarter 2011.

(b) Discussion and/or Action regarding Grant Procedures; Number of Grant Cycles per Fiscal Year

Mr. Nobles presented the recommendation of 2 grant cycles per year. After discussion, the Commissioners agreed on two grant cycles per year, on a set schedule to begin FY 2012.

MOTION: Approve the FY 2012 Two-Cycle Grant Calendar as presented.

MADE BY: Vice Chairman Cantu

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Scott

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

(c) Discussion and/or Action regarding Grant Procedures; Allowing Grantees/ Municipalities to Purchase Vehicles

Mr. Nobles presented the procedures for allowing grantees the ability to propose purchasing vehicles for the purpose of transporting veterans. After discussion, the Commissioners decided it was not in the best interest of the FVA to allow capital purchases. The procedures were removed.

(d) Discussion and/or Action regarding Grant Procedures; Grant Reporting Requirements and Enforcement

Mr. Nobles presented the procedures for grant reporting and enforcement. Discussion was held regarding the definition of "startup costs." Irma Rodriguez, Chief Financial Officer, confirmed that startup funding can be, and has been, used on any category in the approved budget per the documentation provided to the grantees. The Commissioners agreed to revise the language to read, "startup costs and/or services" in the policy, grant documents, and rules. The Commissioners also agreed to revised procedures for distribution of funds so that grantees will receive a 10% or 25% initial payment based on the amount of the grant, to be used on items in the approved budget. Grantees will not have to spend down the initial payment before applying for reimbursement. FVA will reimburse expenditure reports at 100% for the first ¾ of the grant period. During the last 3 months of the grant period, FVA will reimburse grantees less than the amount requested in order to recover the initial payment. Grant documents will be amended to reflect the new process. After review and discussion, the Commissioners directed staff to revise the Corrective Action for Late Reporting policy as follows: Change "point of contact" to "authorized agent."

III. Report, Presentation and/or Action regarding Grantees with missing or late reports and Enforcement

Mr. Nobles presented and reviewed the Contract Performance Report current through October 31, 2010. No action was taken.

IV. Discussion and/or Action regarding Grantee Amendments

Mr. Nobles presented the following four (4) amendments for approval. Amendment for Burnet County VETRIDES.

MOTION: Approve the Grant Agreement amendment as presented.

MADE BY: Secretary McKinney

SECONDED BY: Commissioner McLeon

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

Amendment for Samaritan Center.

MOTION: Approve the Grant Agreement amendment as presented.

MADE BY: Secretary McKinney

SECONDED BY: Vice Chairman Cantu

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

Amendment for Rains County.

MOTION: Deny the Grant Agreement amendment as presented.

MADE BY: Chairman O'Mahoney

SECONDED BY: Vice Chairman Cantu

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

Amendment for Bexar County Veterans Court.

MOTION: Approve the Grant Agreement amendment as presented.

MADE BY: Commissioner Scott

SECONDED BY: Secretary McKinney

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman O'Mahoney requested a briefing regarding Veterans Courts at the next Commission meeting.

V. **Discussion and/or Action regarding Request to set aside \$40,000 to fund Nueces County Veterans Court**

Mr. Nobles presented a recommendation to set aside \$40,000 in funding for Nueces County Veterans Court.

MOTION: Approve \$40,000 in grant funds set aside for Nueces County Veterans Court.

MADE BY: Commissioner McLeon

SECONDED BY: Vice Chairman Cantu

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Nobles requested for discussion at the next Commission meeting the matter of setting aside funding for the renewal of existing Veterans Court grants in 2011, and for any new Veterans Court applicants.

VI. Discussion and/or Action regarding adding Regional Councils of Government to the type of organizations eligible to apply for grant funds

Mr. Nobles presented a recommendation to accept Regional Councils of Government (COGS) as entities eligible to apply for grant funds. The Commissioners requested additional information about COGS and their management structure, and agreed to table this item for consideration at the next Commission meeting.

VII. Review and Approval of revised FVA Grant Forms

Mr. Nobles presented the revised FVA Application Information and Instructions form. In accordance with earlier decisions, "startup costs" will be revised throughout to read, "startup costs and/or services," proposed COGS language on page 3 was removed, and reference to 25% startup funding will be included in the Grants Monitoring Plan Risk-Based Assessment Tables. The Grant Application form was reviewed, and will also be revised to reflect decisions from today's meeting.

MOTION: Approve revised forms with amendments as discussed.

MADE BY: Vice Chairman Cantu

SECONDED BY: Secretary McKinney

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Report, Presentation and/or Action regarding funds received from unclaimed veterans lottery ticket sales

Mr. Nobles presented the procedures and timelines for unclaimed prize dollars from veterans lottery tickets will be transferred to the FVA. FVA is expecting to receive a deposit of funds in December 2010 for unclaimed prize dollars from the first ticket released one year ago. The Commissioners requested to see documentation from the

Lottery Commission clarifying the intention of Tex. Gov't Code §466.408. Irma Rodriguez, Chief Financial Officer, provided a cash balance report to the Commissioners for their information and reference. Ms. Rodriguez agreed to provide updates of this report along with her regular monthly reporting going forward.

Chairman O'Mahoney thanked Mr. Nobles and his staff on behalf of the Commissioners for all their hard work and effort to address the Commissioners' concerns.

Chairman O'Mahoney called for a recess at 12:15 p.m.

Chairman O'Mahoney reconvened the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

IX. Discuss date, time and location of next Commission Meeting

The next meetings of the Commission were previously set for January 25 and 26, 2011.

X. Items for next Commission Meeting

Briefing of Veterans Courts; funding for Veterans Court grant renewals in August 2011 and new Veterans Court grantees; further analysis of Councils of Government for consideration of eligibility for grant funds.

XI. Public Comments

None.

XII. Executive Session

Chairman O'Mahoney adjourned into Executive Session at 12:30 p.m.

Chairman O'Mahoney reconvened in Open Meeting at 12:50 p.m.

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

XIII. Commissioners' Closing Comments

The Commissioners each expressed their appreciation for staff and their support.

XIV. Adjournment

Chairman O'Mahoney adjourned the meeting at 12:55 p.m.

Minutes Approved by:


T.P. O'Mahoney, Chairman



TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION
Special Commission Meeting - Fiscal Year 2011
December 2, 2010 10:00 a.m.
SFA Bldg. – Room 800-I - Austin, Texas

Roy Grona
VFW, Department of Texas, Adjutant/Quartermaster

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