

# Texas Veterans Commission Meeting Minutes

Second Quarterly Meeting (FY 2010)  
December 8, 2009

## I. Call to order

Chair Rankin called to order the regular Second Quarterly Meeting of the Texas Veterans Commission at 8:32 a.m. on December 8, 2009, in Room 170 of the Stephen F. Austin Building, 1700 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas 78701.

## 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

Also present was James E. Nier, Executive Director.

Also present: See the attached list.

## III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

The minutes of First Quarterly Meeting held on October 19, 2009 were previously distributed to the Commissioners.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the First Quarterly Meeting as presented.

MADE BY: Chair Rankin

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Cantu

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

## IV. Report, presentation and/or action on TVC Internal Audit Plan for FY 2010

The presentation of the Audit Plan was presented by Russell Gregorczyk, TVC Internal Auditor and previously distributed to the Commissioners.

MOTION: To approve the Audit Plan as presented.

MADE BY: Vice-Chairman O'Mahoney

SECONDED BY: Commissioner McKinney

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

V. **Report, presentation and/or action regarding adoption of new rules**

The presentation of Chapter 459 concerning Transportation Support Services was presented by Tina Carnes, and previously distributed to the Commissioners.

MOTION: To approve and adopt new Chapter to provide temporary transportation assistance in order to obtain or retain employment.

MADE BY: Chair Rankin

SECONDED BY: All Commissioners

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

VI. **Review and update of the Marketing Plan**

The presentation of the Marketing Plan was presented by Lisa Waddell, Marketing Manager, and previously distributed to the Commissioners.

She reported that the overall goal of the Texas Veterans Commission is to assist more veterans and their families with benefits and services. To help achieve the overall agency mission, TVC marketing activities focus on two primary areas - increasing TVC brand awareness with all veterans and increasing the number of veterans who use TVC services. She also reported that the new TVC website will be launched in two phases. The first phase will go live in February and the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase will launch in March. The new website is designed to be the premier portal to all veterans' services in the state of Texas. She concluded her report stating that paid and earned media will be utilized to maximize the number of attendees at outreach events and increase TVC awareness. The exact mix of radio, online and print advertising will depend on the needs and media costs in each city.

VII. **Tina Carnes, TVC General Counsel, reported on advisory committee new business**

Tina Carnes, General Counsel, presented the new nominations of Bob Brown and Gary Terry to the Fund for Veterans' Assistance Advisory Committee. Commissioners accepted the nominations as presented.

MOTION: To accept new members as presented.

MADE BY: Commissioner Cantu

SECONDED BY: Commissioner McKinney

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

Tina Carnes, General Counsel, presented the new nomination of Colonel Connie McNabb for the Communications Advisory Committee. Commissioners accepted the nomination as presented.

MOTION: To accept new member as presented.

MADE BY: Chair Rankin

SECONDED BY: Commissioner McKinney

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

**VIII. Tina Carnes, TVC General Counsel, reported on the second lottery ticket**

Tina Carnes, General Counsel, presented the recommendation of the Fund for Veterans' Assistance Advisory Committee of the artwork of the new 2<sup>nd</sup> lottery ticket as presented.

MOTION: To approve the artwork as presented.

MADE BY: Commissioner Cantu

SECONDED BY: Vice-Chairman O'Mahoney

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

**IX. Approval of the grant process for the Fund for Veterans' Assistance**

Ms. Carnes reported that the Fund for Veterans' Assistance Advisory Committee met and recommended the attached Letter of Interest, Grant Instructions and Grant Application Package and now needs Commission approval of the grant process documents.

Vice-Chairman O'Mahoney announced his procedural objection to the presentation of the three documents. He made it clear that he was uncomfortable with having to vote on substantive changes he has not yet seen and that it is completely unacceptable.

After discussion and revisions Chair Rankin made a motion to accept and approve the "Letter of Interest" as amended.

MOTION: Approve the letter of interest as amended.

MADE BY: Chair Rankin

SECONDED BY: All Commissioners

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioners reviewed and discussed the edits to the grant instructions and the grant application package. Commissioner Cantu recommended that the name of the grant be "Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veterans' Assistance Grant". The Commissioners agreed then call for motion to approve the package as amended.

MOTION: Approve the grant instructions and the grant application package as amended with non-substantive changes.

MADE BY: Chair Rankin

SECONDED BY: All Commissioners

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

**X. Report by Executive Director**

Mr. Nier reported on upcoming events and introduced new employees in Marketing, Veterans Employment Services and TVC's new Grant Coordinator and welcomed them to the agency. He also reported that Marketing Director interviews are ongoing and hopefully we will have someone in place by first of year.

**XI. Agenda items for next meeting**

Commissioner McKinney commented that the request for guidance from the commission by the other two advisory committees has not been discussed or replied to. Recommendation to post the Summit, conduct a workshop after the Summit and present their recommendations to the Advisory Committees at the next Commission meeting on January 28, 2010.

NOTE: the Requirements placed on the commission concerning the FVA will require more frequent meetings, at least during the early phases of the fund's management, since the commission is the approval body for fund disbursement to applicants.

**XII. Public Comment**

None

**XIII. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The Third Quarterly Meeting for FY 2010 was scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on January 28, 2010, in Room 170 of the Stephen F. Austin Building, Austin, Texas. A tentative meeting was also scheduled for February 19, 2010 at 8:30 a.m.

**XIV. Commissioners' Closing Comments**

The Commissioners commended the FVA Advisory Committee and TVC staff for all the hard work and long hours put in the grant process documents.

**XV. Adjournment**

Chair Rankin adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Minutes Approved by:

  
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Karen S. Rankin, Chair



**TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION**

Second Quarterly Commission Meeting

Fiscal Year 2010

December 8, 2009

8:30 a.m.

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**Jennifer Cernoch**

Vice Chairman, Fund for Veterans Assistance Advisory Committee

**Jim Darwin**

Associate Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Executive Secretary,  
Texas Veterans Land Board

**Russell Gregorczyk**

CPA – Jansen & Gregorczyk  
TVC - Internal Auditor

**Jacinda Johnson**

Transition Assistance Advisor, Texas Military Forces, Camp Mabry

**Harvey King**

Assistant State Director, U.S. Department of Labor  
Veterans' Employment & Training Service

**Kyle Mitchell**

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

**John McKinny**

State Director, U.S. Department of Labor  
Veterans' Employment & Training Service

**John Miterko**

Legislative Liaison  
Texas Coalition of Veterans Organizations

**Olie Pope**

Travis County Veterans Service Officer

**General Thomas G. Smith**

Member, Fund for Veterans Assistance Advisory Committee

**Tim Vasquez**

President, Veterans County Service Officer Association of Texas

**David Weaver**

Attorney, State Securities Board  
Member, Fund for Veterans Assistance Advisory Committee