

March 02, 2023

Board Chambers

Veterans Commission

MINUTES

Members

Dr. Vanessa M. Gattis
Tom Gordy
Nancy Jean-Louis

Donnell E. Johns, Sr.
Cheryl S. H. Lamar
Tim Parrish

Present: Commissioners Vanessa Gattis, Tom Gordy, Donnell E. Johns Sr., Cheryl Lamar, Tim Parrish; Director of Human Resources Joseph Gilkerson and Admin Stacy Anderson. Chair Tim Parrish called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Minutes

- Minutes of February 2, 2023 were approved (Gattis-motion/Gordy-seconded/Unanimous).

Public Comment Time

- None.

Administrative Remarks

- Joseph Gilkerson referenced email that was sent out previously regarding regional meetings once a quarter with counterparts in Fairfax, Stafford, and Loudon. Will follow up with more information.

Work Session

- The Commission chose to hold voting for the Secretary until a later date when the vacancies are filled.
- Commission chose to move agenda item standing rules to next meeting since Commissioner Jean-Louis was not present. This item will just be to review the document since changes have already been voted on.
- Commission discussed Transportation funding recommendation in regard to assisting Veterans in getting to and from appointments, facilities, etc. Would like to revisit this in April and invite a representative from Transportation to attend to brainstorm. Chair Parrish and Commissioner Gordy will meet with the Transportation representative first in person before the meeting.

Old Business

- None.

New Business

- None.

Commissioners Time

- Commissioner Lamar – Discussed an email that she received inviting her to a roundtable that she attended on February 23, 2023, at the Veteran War Museum in Richmond. This roundtable discussed issues that women face such as healthcare, transportation, being included, the option of creating a category to deal with just women issues, etc.
- Commissioner Johns Sr. – Recognized that it is Women’s History Month. Wanted to say that he appreciated women veterans, those who are currently serving to include military spouses since they have contributed a lot to the success of this country. Discussed the Commission operating for a year and that the Commission is not here to fix but to be a voice for the community. Discussed the pop-up shop that operated every weekend. Invited those in attendance to visit the location and support the local veteran and military spouses’ businesses.
- Commissioner Gattis – Told Commissioners to pass information to their Supervisor because the information does not do any good if it is not passed along to the community. Discussed the food distribution and asked that Commissioners spread the word and send the flyer to their Supervisor.
- Commissioner Gordy – Discussed the Army’s new museum. Echoed what Commissioner Johns said in regard to the women veterans, serving, and spouses. Discussed an article regarding the important role families provide in the recruitment process. Discussed the Association for Defense Communities and wants to look into if Prince William County a part of. If not, they should be.
- Commissioner Parrish – Notified the Commission that he would be going to the event that Commissioner Gattis discussed. Discussed food insecurity in the military.

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm. (Gordy-motion/Lamar-seconded/unanimous)