



**MICHIGAN VETERANS' FACILITY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

September 19, 2023

10:00 a.m.

APPROVED MINUTES

A meeting of the Michigan Veterans Facility Authority (MVFA) Board of Directors was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair David Henry. The meeting was conducted at the Michigan Veteran Homes D.J. Jacobetti, 425 Fisher Street, Marquette, Michigan 49855

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Attendance Roll Call

Chair Henry called for a roll call of members present.

The following MVFA Board of Directors were present: David Henry, Ken Robbins, MaryAnne Shannon (via telephone), Brad Slagle, Barry Walter

Excused Absence: Adam Hollier, David Rutledge

Michigan Veteran Homes (MVH) Executive Leadership Team: Patty Altimore, Tiffany Carr, Ryan Engle, Mike Hassan, Chris LaJoie, Cary Lincoln, Ron Oja, Steve Rolston, Beth Simonton-Kramer, Melissa Velie, Anne Zerbe

Virtual Guests: Christine Apostol, Ann Barsch, Laura Birchmeier, Erica Bobrowski, Sara Brys, Sean Depuydt, AAG Lauren Fitzsimons, AAG Jason Geissler, Michael Kroll, Jennifer Manning, Linda Smith, Courtney Tweedale, Mark Wolf, et al.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Slagle, seconded by Robbins, motioned to adopt the meeting agenda dated September 19, 2023, as presented. The motion passed 5-0.

4. Public Comment

Michigan Veteran Homes D.J. Jacobetti Director of Nursing Cary Lincoln introduced himself to the board. Mr. Lincoln has worked at the Home for 29.5 years and welcomed the board members to the Home.

5. Approval of Proposed Minutes

Walter, seconded by Slagle, motioned to adopt the proposed minutes dated August 22, 2023, meeting, as presented. The motion passed 5-0.

6. Executive Director's Report

- **Update on the Replacement Facility for MVH D.J. Jacobetti.**

- Anne Zerbe reported that a community forum will be conducted this evening at 5:30 p.m. at Northern Michigan University. MVH Director of Construction and Facilities Management Mike Hassan, members of the design team, and EGLE representation will be present at the forum. This event allows the public to receive updated information, pose questions, and express concerns.
- The deference letter of VA funding to FY2024 has been submitted; the delay will not affect the construction deadline. All grant funding documents will be submitted to the VA by June 2024. This deference will give also MVH staff more time to finalize documents for the environmental review process.
- The environmental testing of the Cliffs Dow sight should be complete within the next month. Final documents will be prepared by April 2024, with a submission to the VA by June 2024. Chair Henry requested a timeline with milestones to keep the board apprised of the status; milestones include approvals from EGLE and the VA. Ryan Engle added that there is a section on the MVH website which includes press releases, media coverage, construction documents, and FAQs for the MVH D.J. Jacobetti replacement facility.
- Ms. Zerbe added that she is working through the appraisals at this time for the current Home site and Cliffs Dow site. Asbestos remediation may be the only concern with the demolition of the current building.

- **Update on the Status of Board Appointments (3)**

- Anne Zerbe apologized for not following up with the Governor's Appointments Office regarding the three vacancies on the board. Chair Henry expressed his frustration with the appointments process and wonders what he can do as the board chair to expedite the appointments. Ms. Zerbe will follow up with the Appointments Office prior to the next board meeting.

- **Update on MVH Operations, Steve Rolston – MVH COO**

- Steve Rolston reported that this next year will provide a sense of normalcy in the homes with no pandemic, no major transition of moving from facility to facility, nor the opening a new facility.
- He and his staff will be developing a new plan for transitioning from MVH D.J. Jacobetti's current site to the replacement facility. This transition will present new challenges as experience with opening a new facility at MVH at Chesterfield Township or moving members to a new building on the same campus as with MVH at Grand Rapids.
- Melissa Velie and Chris LaJoie are launching a new inventory management system and working with DTMB on new inventory management policies which was an audit finding earlier this year.

- **Update on MVH at Chesterfield Township – Jennifer Manning, Administrator**
 - Jennifer Manning shared that since the last board meeting, the home has had one COVID positive member and contact tracing was successfully utilized in determining its origin.
 - A special luncheon was provided to members with a surprise guest of Governor Gretchen Whitmer in attendance. The members enjoyed seeing her; she has not visited the home since the ribbon cutting ceremony.
 - A Volunteer Appreciation Dinner is slated for next week for those volunteers who contribute to life enrichment and engagement with the members.
 - The two resident eagles, Charlie and Emma, continue to bring community interest to the Home.

- **Update on MVH DJ Jacobetti – Ron Oja, Administrator**
 - Ron Oja welcomed the board members to MVH D.J. Jacobetti.
 - A total of 14 COVID cases are currently in the Home; however, it is not following the same trend as in the past. The cases are exclusively amongst members who are isolating in place on the second floor of the home.
 - A member fall was reported resulting in a fracture. The case with quickly closed with no findings against the Home.
 - Four hospitality aides are attending Certified Nurse Aide Training through Bay College. The aides have completed their first week and more staff are slated for future training.

- **Update on MVH at Grand Rapids – Steve Rolston – MVH COO**
 - Steve Rolston provided an update for Administrator Carly MacDonald; she was attending a HCAM training session.
 - There are two COVID positive members at the Home at this time. Since the members have private rooms, they can isolate within their room.
 - There is a shortage of cooks at the Home; the “Cook” position description has been modified so prospective cooks may be hired with a little less experience as previously required. Contracted employees have been covering the culinary shortage at the Home in the interim.
 - Carly MacDonald continues to work with the VA in developing a pharmacy sharing agreement.

Chair Henry called for a 10-minute break at 10:44 a.m.

7. MVH Committee Updates

- **Executive Committee**
 - Chair Henry stated that the committee accepted the resignation of Vice Chair Mary Naber, adding that he appreciated her encouragement with the staff and board members; she will be missed.
 - Chair Henry nominated Brad Slagle to be the new Vice Chair; Mr. Slagle would then relinquish his position as the Board Treasurer. Chair Henry further nominated Ken Robbins as the new Board Treasurer.

Chair Henry, seconded by Walter, motioned to open the nominations for the Vice Chair position and he nominated Brad Slagle for the position. The motion was passed by a roll call vote 5-0 with Henry, Robbins, Shannon, Slagle (abstain but will accept), and Walter in favor.

Chair Henry, seconded by Slagle, motioned to nominate Ken Robbins as the Board Treasurer. The motion was passed by a roll call vote 5-0 with Henry, Robbins (abstain but will accept), Shannon, Slagle, and Walter in favor.

- **Budget and Financial Oversight Committee**

- Chair Slagle stated the committee reviewed the status of state funds and donated funds.
- The deficit for this fiscal year increased over the amount anticipated primarily due to costs for contract nursing. The State Budget Office was notified and are working on a resolution for the deficit.
- Chair Slagle reviewed the Monthly Per Diem Rate Methodology memorandum, noting the skilled nursing base rate shall be automatically adjusted effective January 1 of each year according to the annual Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment. The Veteran Rate Offset is also automatically determined by the VA's annual rate change. Should the VA per diem change mid-year, the Veteran Rate Offset will apply directly to the full daily rate of all veterans.

Robbins, seconded by Walter, approved to use the Monthly Per Diem Rate Methodology as presented as an automated, annual process, with the board reserving the opportunity to deviate from the process when the board deems it necessary. The motion was passed by a roll call vote 5-0 with Henry, Robbins, Shannon, Slagle, and Walter in favor.

- **Governance and Advocacy Committee**

- Chair Rutledge was not in attendance of the meeting; therefore, Ryan Engle provided an update on the advocacy work during the last quarter.
 - Hebe Fountain Rededication: State Representative Rachel Hood in attendance
 - Meet & greet with members at MVH at Chesterfield Township: State Representative Jay DeBoyer in attendance
 - MVH D.J. Jacobetti Volunteer Banquet: State Representative Jenn Hill, staff from the Executive Office, staff from the Office of U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow, staff from the Office of U.S. Senator Gary Peters in attendance
 - Conducted a medal ceremony at the MVH at Grand Rapids: U.S. Representative Hillary Scholten
 - Visited the MVH at Grand Rapids: U.S. Representative Hillary Scholten in attendance
 - Visited the members at MVH at Chesterfield Township: Governor Gretchen Whitmer in attendance
 - Visited the members at MVH at Chesterfield Township: U.S. Representative Lisa McClain in attendance

- Volunteer Appreciation Banquet at MVH at Grand Rapids: State Representative Rachel Hood, staff from the office of State Senator Winnie Brinks, U.S. Representative Hillary Scholten, U.S. Senator Gary Peters in attendance
 - Volunteer Appreciation Banquet at MVH at Chesterfield Township will have staff from the Executive Office of the Governor, staff from the office of State Representative Jay DeBoyer, and staff from the office of U.S. Senator Gary Peters.
- Mr. Engle concluded his presentation by stating that each meeting with those elected officials and leaders is an opportunity to share work and advocate for those we serve.
- **Outreach and Fund Development Committee**
 - Chair Barry Walter stated he did not have an update after Ryan Engle's columbarium presentation at the last meeting. Mr. Walter is anticipating the November timeframe for drawings and financial information for the proposed columbarium at MVH at Grand Rapids.
 - Tiffany Carr noted that community engagement opportunities are listed in the board packet. She added that board member presence is welcome at the events as a speaking opportunity or as an acknowledgement of board support for the members.

8. New Business

- Steve Rolston deferred to Ron Oja regarding a Charitable Support Fund Reimbursement request. In April 2023, Member Kenneth Roehm, a member with the MVH D.J. Jacobetti, passed away. One of his personal items remaining at the Home was a power wheelchair; however, the power chair cannot be located for its return to the family. Mrs. Roehm stated the cost of the wheelchair was valued at \$2,500 at the time of purchase. When a personal item needs replacement, a "Filing a Claim Against the State of Michigan" process is commenced. Mr. Roehm's family provided a receipt for \$2500 for the purchase of the power wheelchair.

Walter, seconded by Slagle, motioned to reimburse the Roehm family for \$2,500, the purchase price of the power wheelchair. The motion was passed by a roll call vote 5-0 with Henry, Robbins, Shannon, Slagle, and Walter in favor.

- Beth Simonton-Kramer provided an overview of the importance of board member attendance at the National Association of State Veteran Homes (NASVH) Winter Conference. By the November board meeting, it should be determined which board members would like to attend the conference. Brad Slagle and MaryAnne Shannon attended the conference in February 2023 and emphasized it is an excellent opportunity for board members.

David Henry volunteered to attend the winter conference with perhaps David Rutledge or new board members.

- Anne Zerbe reported that board meeting dates will need to be finalized at the November meeting. Board members should check their schedules for availability and also determine if a bimonthly or quarterly meeting is preferred.

9. Public Comment

None

10. Board Comments

Barry Walter – 42 years ago I was here for the dedication of this building and it's amazing; it has served the community and served the veterans of the U.P. Thank you for being stewards of Mr. Jacobetti who admonished me more than once for not paying attention to what goes on in North Korea. It's a pleasure to be here.

Ken Robbins – Thank you Ron and to your team for your hospitality here today. The last few meetings have been very productive. Thank you for your preparation, there is a lot of work that goes into preparing for board meetings.

MaryAnne Shannon – I'm hoping that the board has a wonderful time in Marquette today and tonight, and I did order good weather for all you guys. We need to revisit the possibility of having a board meeting, one board meeting, next year up in Marquette as well as at the other sites.

Brad Slagle – I hope you enjoy your time in Marquette and I think it's great that we're here in the U.P. and at this building; I think it's important. I think it's important for people who are not familiar with the location to come here and get a flavor for how remote it is because it does impact things. It's great for the board to understand the uniqueness of this location, both positive and challenges. So, I'm excited to have the board here.

David Henry – I echo that as well and I apologize for the delinquency and not being here sooner. This is our sixth year of this board operating and I think it's the first time we've been here. Anne, I appreciate your leadership and the things that you're doing behind the scenes that we don't always see or appreciate. You've assembled a team that carries a lot of the load and it's obvious that they're there for you.

11. Adjournment

Slagle, seconded by Robbins, motioned to adjourn. The motion passed 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

MaryAnne Shannon,
MVFA Board Secretary