



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

March 19, 2024

10:00 a.m.

**APPROVED MINUTES**

A meeting of the Michigan Veterans Facility Authority (MVFA) Board of Directors was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by Acting Chair Brad Slagle. The meeting was conducted at Michigan Veteran Trust Fund Building, 3423 N. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd., Bldg 32, Lansing, MI 48910.

**1. Pledge of Allegiance**

**2. Attendance Roll Call**

Acting Chair Slagle called for a roll call of members present.

The following MVFA Board of Directors were present: Brad Slagle, David Rutledge (present at 10:45 am), Leon Bauer, Ken Robbins, MaryAnne Shannon, Barry Walter  
Excused Absence: David Henry, Brian Love

Michigan Veteran Homes (MVH) Executive Leadership Team: Anne Zerbe, Steve Rolston, Beth Simonton-Kramer, Ryan Engle, AAG Jason Geissler, Lynne Myszak

Virtual Guests: Brian Love, Erica Bobrowski, Sara Brys, Mike Hassan, Carly Lincoln, Ron Oja, Linda Smith, Melissa Velie, Mark Wolf, Laura Birchmeier, Sean Depuydt, Tiffany Carr, Ashley Rawlings, et al.

**3. Adoption of Agenda**

*Shannon, seconded by Walter, motioned to accept the meeting agenda dated March 19, 2024, as presented. The motion passed 5-0.*

**4. Public Comment**

None

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS • MICHIGAN VETERAN HOMES  
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**5. Approval of Proposed Minutes**

*Walter, seconded by Shannon, motioned to adopt the minutes from the February 20, 2024, meeting. The motion passed 5-0.*

## 6. Executive Director's Report

- **Anne Zerbe, CEO/ED**

- Anne Zerbe provided an update on the homes. Both Grand Rapids and Chesterfield are awaiting their annual CMS survey. Information will be provided during closed session about property acquisition in the Upper Peninsula.

## 7. Governance and Advocacy

- **Ken Robbins**

- Beth Simonton-Kramer discussed the bylaws and policies and to make the change and ratify for the year. One change is the Charitable Support Fund policy and to broaden the use of the funds for public media activities. The current language is in paragraph 4.E. which discusses public relation activities including a newsletter. This includes modernizing it to incorporate different types of publishing activities by creating a promotional video and or use of social medial along with modern ways of communicating. Language would include public relations activities including publishing media that supports and promotes the homes.
- Barry Walter asked if this includes Facebook with social medial and what kind of limitations do we have. Beth states that the homes have processes that are vetted like photographs to be approved by the members or their responsible parties with consent.
- Ken Robbins proposed a motion to amend the Charitable Support Fund policy with committee recommended language permitting the use of funds to create media that supports and or promotes the homes.

**All in favor. No opposed.**

## 8. Bylaws

*Walter, seconded by Bauer, motion to adopt, and ratify MFVA bylaws and policies for 2024 as amended. Motion passed 5-0.*

Motion MVFA directs MVH staff with a legislative meet and greet in Lansing funded by a third-party sponsor to provide an opportunity for legislators and staff to learn more about MVH and MVFA, Walter seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

## 9. Governor's Proclamation

- Ryan Engle is asking the Governance and Advocacy Committee to honor and proclaim the week of June 2, 2024, for Veteran Homes week. MVHGR will be 138 years old, MVHDJJ from 1981 and MVHCT from 2021.

*Robbins motions the draft proclamation submitted by the governance and advocacy committee to the full board to be approved and submitted to the Executive Office of the Governor's Proclamation for consideration and recognition of State Veteran Homes, Walter seconded, motion passed 5-0.*

## **10. New Business**

- Slagle recommends meetings at all three of the homes. Discuss at the next meeting dates at the other homes for this year.
- Discussion about identification for the members of the board with name tags and business cards.
- A card was sent to the family of Harold Mast.
- Discussion of appeals board member. The position that Harld Mast held is still vacant.

## **Public Comment**

**No comment.**

## **11. Board Comment**

- Barry Walter would like to thank Ryan Engle for his meeting last week on Monday.
- Leon Bauer is questioning if we would welcome inviting veteran groups, county commissioners to the meeting. Discussion on maybe having open houses with local groups. Meetings at the different homes maybe having the opportunity to invite local groups, VSO's, and local officials.
- MaryAnne Shannon reported on what she has learned about lack of open veteran cemetery plots as she continues to explore veteran cemetery options with her American Legion group. She also reported that as board secretary she is working with Lynne and Beth on developing an annual board attendance grid. Lastly, she asked the question about our 2 open board positions and Ryan Engle reported he continues to work on that for the board.
- Ken Robbins stated that he likes the meetings in Lansing but knows that it will benefit going to the different homes for meetings.
- David Rutledge thanked everyone for allowing him to be on a call at the beginning of the meeting.
- Brad Slagle discussed Chesterfield and how great the Legislative lunch and learn that Ryan put on.
- Brian Love stated that Anne did a wonderful job at the MVA's Budget presentation and the work that Ryan Engle does with connecting the community and our veteran engagement with the homes.

At 11:50 a.m., Slagle, seconded by Shannon, motioned to suspend the meeting and move into a closed session under Section 8d of the Open Meetings Act to discuss property parcels for acquisition and market. The motion was passed by a roll call vote 6-0 with Slagle, Robbins, Rutledge, Shannon, Walter, and Bauer in favor.