



## MICHIGAN VETERAN HOMES BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

March 16, 2021

10:00 a.m.

### APPROVED MINUTES

A meeting of the Michigan Veteran Homes (MVH) Board of Directors was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair David Henry; the meeting was conducted via Microsoft Teams. This joint boards meeting was conducted in conjunction with the MVH Board of Managers meeting.

#### 1. Pledge of Allegiance

#### 2. Attendance Roll Call

Chair David Henry called for a roll call of members present.

The following MVH Board of Directors were present: Zaneta Adams (Muskegon, MI); Henry Boutros (Naples, FL); David Henry (Muskegon, MI); Mary Naber (Grosse Pointe, MI); Ken Robbins (Manistee, MI); David Rutledge (Belleville, MI); MaryAnne Shannon (Sault Ste. Marie, MI); Brad Slagle (East Lansing, MI); Larry Yachcik (Freemont, MI)

MVH Board of Managers: James Ausdemore, Deborah Chambers, Robert Johnson, Harold Mast, Shane Preston

MVH Executive Leadership Team: Anne Zerbe, Steve Rolston, Fred Schaible, Tracey Nelson, Ron Oja, Jennifer Manning, Melissa Velie, Niki Wheeler, Mike Hassan, and Patty Altimore

Guests: Christine Apostol, Laura Birchmeier, Erica Bobrowski, Tiffany Carr, Corey Doan, Ryan Doll, Sean Depuydt, Rachel Eldridge, Ryan Engle, Ryan Kastner, Cary Lincoln, Noelle Rouse, Linda Smith, Jodi Thompson, Assistant Attorney General Katie Waskiewicz, et al.

#### 3. Adoption of Agenda

*Adams, seconded by Naber, motioned to accept the meeting agenda dated March 16, 2021 as presented. The motion passed 9-0.*

#### **4. Public Comment**

James Gallant, with the Marquette County Suicide Prevention Coalition, thanked the board for the public comment opportunities offered twice during the meeting. He stated that he is currently working with boards and commissions regarding the way in which they are conducting meetings and the use of the Robert's Rules of Order. Mr. Gallant asked the board to schedule a meeting to review and amend the current bylaws and to review the Open Meetings Act.

#### **5. Approval of Proposed Minutes**

*Yachcik, seconded by Slagle, motioned to accept the proposed meeting minutes dated January 19, 2021 as presented. The motion passed 9-0.*

#### **6. Executive Director Report**

Anne Zerbe stated that she received a memo from the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans social workers and administrator regarding recommendations to the current smoking policy for the new facilities. The memo will be presented to the Governance Committee prior to becoming an action item at the May board meeting.

Administrators Tracey Nelson and Ron Oja reported the findings of the Member Satisfaction Survey for their respective Homes. The results of the Member Satisfaction Survey will be placed on DirectorPoint for board member review.

Fred Schaible presented an update on the transition of governance for the Homes which will occur on March 24, 2021. The Michigan Veterans Facility Authority (MVFA) will continue to follow the existing Board of Managers policies until they are adopted by the MVFA. Mr. Schaible urged the Board of Managers who are interested in serving on the MVFA Appeals Board to contact their VSO; he will also send information regarding the process.

Administrator Jennifer Manning provided an overview of the Chesterfield Home operations status. Topics addressed included the opening timeframe, recruiting efforts, IT assignments, and the arrival of equipment and furnishings.

Fred Schaible noted that the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the MVH at Chesterfield Township will potentially occur during the first part of April; dates of availability from the Governor's office are forthcoming.

Anne Zerbe explained that the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) just completed an update on their strategic plan. She will review the DMVA plan to ensure the MVH plan aligns accordingly. At the July board meeting, the board will have an opportunity to review the revised plans.

Anne Zerbe reported that MVH members are extremely eager to get back to normal life in the Homes. MVH staff have had productive conversations focusing on quality of life, member movement, and policies.

## 6. MVH Committee Updates

**Executive Committee** – Chair Henry encouraged board members to apply for reappointment, if applicable. Brad Slagle addressed the board stating that there are opportunities to advocate for the board on the federal level through such organizations as the National Association of State Veterans Homes (NASVH), National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA), and the Health Care Association of Michigan (HCAM). Mr. Slagle is seeking someone to fill this advocacy role and recommend pertinent organizations to guide this federal advocacy initiative.

**Budget and Financial Oversight Committee** – Chair Slagle provided an overview of the reports included in the board packet. He also summarized the challenges of projecting fiscal year-end revenues and expenses due to the upcoming moves to the new Homes, as well as CMS certification and VA recognition.

**Facility and Capital Improvement Committee** – Chair Boutros noted that committee members met on January 3, 2021. At the meeting, Mike Hasson provided an overview of the construction status and continues to track lessons learned. Mike Hassan provided a construction update summarizing that the Chesterfield Home is 95% complete, while the Grand Rapids Home progress is at 88% completion.

**Governance and Policy Development Committee** – Chair Rutledge reported that there are no action items to recommend to the board at this time. The MVH staff will conduct a comprehensive review of the current Board of Managers policies. The MVFA will continue to follow the existing policies until they are adopted by the MVFA at the May board meeting. Anne Zerbe will provide the committee members with specific recommendations to review regarding a possible amendment of the current smoking policy at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans.

**Outreach and Fund Development Committee** – Chair Yachcik explained that the projected revision of the MVH Strategic Plan will be useful in realigning strategic initiatives in the fundraising realm, with the procurement of artwork for the new Homes as a potential fundraiser. He emphasized the importance of hiring a leader in fund development, currently under consideration by the Michigan Veteran Homes.

## 7. Old Business

Fred Schaible announced that the DMVA is hiring a Deputy Public Information Officer who will be working in part for the MVH. In addition, the new MVH website will be launched within the next few weeks.

Chair Henry asked Mr. Schaible about the status of purchasing meeting livestreaming equipment. Mr. Schaible stated that the equipment previously tested did not meet the needs; thus, the purchase was canceled. Chair Henry asked Mr. Schaible to provide new information regarding another livestreaming equipment purchase.

## 8. New Business

Fred Schaible explained that PA 351 will essentially transfer all powers and authorities held by the Board of Managers to the MVFA Board of Directors. Since PA 351 has not yet gone into effect, the necessary MCL references needed to update the existing Board of Managers policies cannot occur until after the effective date of the new law. Therefore, Mr. Schaible suggested that the MVFA Board of Directors continue to follow the existing Board of Managers policies until they can be revised and adopted.

*Rutledge, seconded by Shannon, motioned to adopt the current Board of Managers policies to ensure consistency of operations at the Homes until such time the Board of Directors can review the policies. The motion passed by roll call vote 9-0, with members Adams, Boutros, Henry, Naber, Robbins, Rutledge, Shannon, Slagle, and Yachcik in favor.*

Anne Zerbe reported that to address a deficiency in the current MVFA Board of Directors Bylaws and upon guidance from the Attorney General's office, MVH recommends amending Article III (Meetings & Committees) by adding public comment parameters to the meeting agenda.

Henry, seconded by Shannon, motioned to amend Article III of the Bylaws to include the following language Section 8: Public comment will be conducted at the beginning and end of each meeting and noted on the agenda. A three (3) minute time limit will be imposed on each speaker for the public comment period at the start of the meeting and a five (5) minute time limit for each speaker for the comment period at the end of the meeting.

During discussion, David Rutledge suggested amending the motion to impose a three-minute time limit for public comment at both the beginning and the end of the meeting for consistency.

Rutledge, seconded by Boutros, motioned to amend the previous motion to reflect a three (3) minute time limit for public comment at the end of each meeting. The motion passed by roll call vote 9-0, with members Adams, Boutros, Henry, Naber, Robbins, Rutledge, Shannon, Slagle, and Yachcik in favor.

The amended motion passed by roll call vote 9-0, with members Adams, Boutros, Henry, Naber, Robbins, Rutledge, Shannon, Slagle, and Yachcik in favor.

Anne Zerbe recommended that the Board of Managers receive formal recognition for their service at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the new MVH at Grand Rapids this summer. She will keep both boards apprised on the dates/times for the Ribbon Cutting ceremonies at both facilities.

## **9. Public Comment**

Corey Doan, Michigan Veterans' Facility Ombudsman, stressed the importance of addressing mental health resources due to the lack of placement for veterans with behavioral issues. Mr. Doan added that the initiative is supported by the MVFO, along with any steps taken toward providing more facility structure. Lastly, he expressed his appreciation for the member mobility discussions which are positive and ongoing.

Tracey Nelson, MVH at Grand Rapids Home Administrator, extended her appreciation to the Board of Managers for their physical and emotional support, especially last year during the pandemic. She expressed that the support meant the world to her and she hopes the Board of Managers will continue their work on the MVFA board in their new role.

James Gallant, from the Marquette County Suicide Prevention Coalition, stated that he was disappointed that the board reduced public comment time by 20 percent. Regarding CMS certification and mental health services provided, Mr. Valant stated that a member was over-medicated in January; the member did not receive a comprehensive assessment. He requested that this issue be put on the agenda for next month, along with the transfer of bylaws.

## **10. Board of Directors Comments**

Larry Yachcik – thanked everyone for the wonderful conversations today and is proud to serve on the board.

Brad Slagle – expressed a great appreciation for the Board of Managers; all managers, past and present, have contributed in a great way.

MaryAnne Shannon – emphasized the need to continue public health principles to stay safe by receiving a COVID vaccine. She appreciates the work of the Board of Managers and the strong foundation they created.

David Rutledge – no comment.

Ken Robbins – no comment.

Mary Naber – expressed thanks to the Board of Managers

Henry Boutros – echoed comments previously made and no further comment.

Zaneta Adams – expressed appreciation to the Board of Managers for the work they have done in the advocacy and service realms. She also provided information on upcoming COVID vaccination clinics at Northern Michigan University.

Chair Henry – stated that it has been a privilege to work with the Board of Managers, and the board has done a yeoman’s job in serving veterans. He is looking forward to the work going forward and the potential to build more homes.

**11. Adjournment**

*Yachcik, seconded by Adams, motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0.*  
The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bradford Slagle".

Bradford Slagle,  
MVFA Board Secretary