



MICHIGAN VETERAN HOMES BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

August 18, 2020
10:00 a.m.

APPROVED MINUTES

A meeting of the Michigan Veteran Homes (MVH) Board of Directors was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Chair David Henry. The meeting was conducted via Microsoft Teams due to Executive Order 2020-129. The commencement of the meeting was delayed approximately 30 minutes due to technical difficulties with the Microsoft Teams software. 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: Henry Boutros, David Henry, Mary Naber, Ken Robbins, David Rutledge, MaryAnne Shannon, Brad Slagle, Larry Yachcik.
Excused absence: Zaneta Adams

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

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

Guests: Laura Birchmeier, Erica Bobrowski, Tiffany Carr, Corey Doan, Sean Depuydt, Ryan Engle, Mary Openlander, Tammy Porter, Assistant Attorney General Katie Waskiewicz, et al.

3. Approval of Proposed Agenda

Chair Henry called for a motion to add "marketing contract" to the agenda as item #7iii.

Slagle, seconded by Naber, motioned to amend the meeting agenda to add "marketing contract" as item #7iii, and accept as amended. The motion passed 8-0.

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4. Public Comment

None

5. Approval of Proposed Minutes Dated May 6, 2020

Rutledge, seconded by Slagle, motioned to accept the meeting minutes dated June 16, 2020 as presented. The motion passed 8-0.

6. Committee Updates

Chair Henry called on board members to volunteer to serve on the MVH Board Committees which resulted as follows:

Executive Committee: Chair David Henry, Mary Naber, Brad Slagle, Anne Zerbe

Budget and Financial Oversight Committee: Chair Brad Slagle, Henry Boutros, Ken Robbins, Anne Zerbe

Facility and Capital Improvement Committee: Chair Henry Boutros, Brad Slagle, David Henry, Anne Zerbe

Governance and Policy Development Committee: Chair David Rutledge, MaryAnne Shannon, Zaneta Adams, Anne Zerbe

Outreach and Fund Development Committee: Chair Larry Yachcik, Brad Slagle, Anne Zerbe

Chair Henry encouraged committee members to complete their work outside of the meeting forum, and to report findings and present recommendations directly to the board. Committee chairs should submit any documentation for the board meeting packet to Patty Altimore, as requested.

7. Old Business

Anne Zerbe provided an overview of the Homes' response to the COVID-19 pandemic to include: weekly testing of staff, warm and hot COVID units at both facilities, daily updates with the MVH Leadership Team, updated CDC and MDHHS guidelines, employee screening, and PPE supplies.

Ron Oja, administrator at the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans (DJJHV), was introduced to the board members by Steve Rolston. Mr. Oja was hired in March 2020, just as the COVID-19 pandemic hit Michigan. Mr. Oja provided a summary of the COVID-19 pandemic response at the Home. Administrator Tracey Nelson also presented COVID-19 related updates at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans.

Mary Naber complimented the MVH Leadership Team on their continued support of the COVID-19 testing process for employees. Henry Boutros inquired as to which laboratories were conducting the employee testing at each of the Homes. Mr. Oja indicated that the State of Michigan Lab is processing the weekly COVID-19 testing for the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans employees, with a turnaround time of 1-2 days. Ms. Nelson stated that NxGen in Grand Rapids processes the laboratory testing for the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans employees, with a turnaround time of 2 days or less.

Anne Zerbe also provided an update for the MI Safe Open Plan. She stated that she is waiting for the Task Force to make final recommendations to the plan, which are expected in late-August. Once finalized, the MI Safe Open Plan will be shared with board members.

As an added agenda item, Ms. Zerbe provided a summary of the MVH website development by Brogan and Partners. She stated that the MVH Leadership Team is currently reviewing the wireframes and the product is scheduled to be sent to the State of Michigan in mid-September for development. Board members will receive a draft of the website prior to it going live.

8. New Business

Steve Rolston introduced Jennifer Manning to the board as the administrator for the future Southeast Michigan Home for Veterans. Jennifer provided a brief overview of her experience and is excited to be part of the team.

Steve Rolston provided background information regarding the status of the domiciliary at the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans. The current domiciliary unit has been transformed into a COVID-19 warming unit and isolation unit. The five domiciliary members at the Home were informed of the discontinuation of services due to limited funding and increased regulations. The members have been moved to the skilled nursing unit and will continue living in the unit or assisted with discharge planning. Mary Naber offered that the Homes may partner with other agencies to provide domiciliary services for veterans.

Anne Zerbe led a discussion requesting the use of post funds for art consultant services at the new Homes. The services will be designed to mesh some of the artwork already in place, while purchasing new items to provide a cohesive vision. Board members discussed a variety of options to include artwork donations and an area to showcase member art.

The Board of Managers approved a motion to approve an amount not to exceed \$50,000 from the GRHV's Post Fund "unrestricted donations" for the purpose of hiring an art consultant.

Mike Hassan presented an update on the construction status of the new Homes. Mr. Hassan also outlined the extra costs incurred due to construction delays from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Henry Boutros and Brad Slagle requested to meet with Mr. Hassan regarding furniture fixtures and other furnishing issues.

9. Public Comments

None

10. Board Comments

Ken Robbins – provided a thank you to the MVH Leadership Team for their continued support and hard work during the response to COVID-19. Mr. Robbins also welcomed Jennifer Manning to the team.

Larry Yachcik – echoed Mr. Robbins. Mr. Yachcik also inquired if donors are allowed to tour the construction sites as part of outreach and funding for the Homes. Anne Zerbe will work with Mr. Yachcik and Mr. Hassan in fulfilling these requests.

Brad Slagle – looks forward to meeting Administrators Ron Oja and Jennifer Manning in person. He also expressed concern if members are allowed visitors in the Homes. MVH leadership stated that no visitors are allowed at the Homes at this time except for window visits, virtual visits, upon approval of a member's IDT, hospice, and end of life visits.

MaryAnne Shannon – thanked the MVH Leadership Team for their COVID-19 responsiveness. Ms. Shannon also asked if there will be a place on the MVH website for administrators' bios and photos; Fred Schaible confirmed that the website will highlight the administrators of the Homes.

Mary Naber – thanked the entire MVH Leadership Team for their hard work and thoughtfulness.

Henry Boutros – echoed thoughts presented by the other members and welcomed Jennifer Manning to the team.

David Rutledge – none

Chair Henry – presented a question to Assistant Attorney General Katie Waskiewicz, who advised that she could speak with him following the meeting. Chair Henry also stated to Jennifer Manning that he has high expectations of her because she has signed on with a great team.

11. Adjournment

Naber, seconded by Slagle, motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 8-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 a.m.



Bradford Slagle,
MVFA Board Secretary