



## MICHIGAN VETERAN HOMES BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

November 17, 2020  
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 in accordance with Section 3(2) of OMA, MCL 15.263(2). This joint boards meeting was conducted in conjunction with the MVH Board of Managers meeting.

#### 1. Pledge of Allegiance

##### Moment of Silence

Chair David Henry called for a moment of silence to honor Sarah Brooks, who served 61 years at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans and provided over 20,000 volunteer hours for veterans in need.

#### 2. Attendance Roll Call – MVFA

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 (Ann Arbor, MI); David Henry (Muskegon, MI); Ken Robbins (Manistee, MI); David Rutledge (Belleville, MI); MaryAnne Shannon (Sault Ste. Marie, MI) (excused at 11:30 a.m.); Brad Slagle (Marquette, MI) (arrived 10:02 a.m.); Larry Yachcik (Freemont, MI)

Excused absence: Mary Naber

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, Niki Wheeler, Melissa Velie, Mike Hassan, and Patty Altimore

Guests: Laura Birchmeier, Erica Bobrowski, Tiffany Carr, Corey Doan, Sean Depuydt, Cary Lincoln, Jodi Thompson, Assistant Attorney General Katie Waskiewicz, et al.

### 3. Adoption of Agenda - MVFA

*Yachcik, seconded by Adams, motioned to accept the meeting agenda dated November 17, 2020 as presented. The motion passed 8-0.*

### 4. Public Comment

Tiffany Carr, GRHV Director of Member/Public Relations, thanked the boards for acknowledging Sarah Brooks. In honor of Ms. Brooks' service to the GRHV, Ms. Carr is coordinating a monetary collection to purchase a bench and other tree/plantings for the chapel greenspace at the new Home. If anyone is interested in donating to the collection, he/she should contact Ms. Carr directly.

### 5. Approval of Proposed Minutes – MVFA

*Slagle, seconded by Shannon, motioned to accept the proposed meeting minutes dated August 18, 2020 as presented. The motion passed 8-0.*

### 6. MVH Committee Updates – MVFA

**Executive Committee** - Chair Henry indicated that he met with Anne Zerbe and Fred Schaible regarding current issues concerning the committee; there is nothing pertinent to report to the board.

**Budget and Financial Oversight Committee** – Chair Slagle reported that budgetary issues are on track in the construction realm. He noted that donations will be accepted via existing accounts at the GRHV and DJJHV, with a future conversion to a single account to be designated for MVH charitable donations. MaryAnne Shannon inquired if a policy should be developed for donations. Anne Zerbe replied, stating that she will be reviewing the current policies for donations.

**Facility and Capital Improvement Committee** – Chair Boutros stated that committee members reviewed the roles and functions of the committee. The committee will evaluate and prioritize the site locations for future MVH locations. The committee will also confer with Construction Specialist Mike Hassan prior to future board meetings to obtain any construction updates.

**Governance and Policy Development Committee** – Chair Rutledge thanked committee members Zaneta Adams, MaryAnne Shannon, Anne Zerbe, and Fred Schaible for their work. The committee brought two issues before the board to include smoking in the new Homes and naming conventions for the new Homes.

The committee recommended prohibiting smoking entirely at the Chesterfield Township Home for Veterans, and this would be applicable to both members and staff; it would be a smoke-free campus. For the new Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, the MVH Leadership will establish a date certain for smoking to cease, and staff will work with members who smoke regarding the cessation of smoking altogether.

*Rutledge, seconded by Adams, motioned to accept the committee's smoking policy for the new Homes as presented. The motion passed by roll call vote 8-0, with members Adams, Boutros, Henry, Robbins, Rutledge, Shannon, Slagle, and Yachcik in favor.*

The committee also recommends naming the new Homes after the municipal location of the Home, i.e. Michigan Veteran Homes at Chesterfield Township and Michigan Veteran Homes at Grand Rapids. In addition, the committee recommends that the MVH Leadership work to establish naming guidance for areas within the new Homes. Criteria for this guidance may include fundraising recognition or a tribute to a notable veteran from the community in which the Home is located.

*Rutledge, seconded by Shannon, motioned to accept the committee's recommendation for naming the new Homes as presented. The motion passed by roll call vote 8-0, with members Adams, Boutros, Henry, Robbins, Rutledge, Shannon, Slagle, and Yachcik in favor.*

**Outreach and Fund Development Committee** – Chair Yachcik reported that the committee will meet again within the next few weeks regarding the feasibility of capital campaign and address the fundraising goals. He explained the importance of identifying people in the communities who want to be part of the fundraising effort. He concluded by stating that it is time for committee members to have pertinent discussions and report out at the next board meeting.

## **7. Old Business**

**Transition of Governance Update** – Fred Schaible provided an update that [Senate Bill 1109 \(2020\)](#) and [Senate Bill 1110 \(2020\)](#) were introduced last week by Senators Barrett and Brinks. Testimony was offered in support of the legislation, and the legislation is well-positioned. The bills should be introduced to the full Senate on December 1, 2020.

**MVH Website Development** – Anne Zerbe noted that Brogan and Partners is working with the eMichigan Team in the MVH website development process, with a website launch expected within the next few weeks.

## **8. New Business**

**Southeast Michigan Home for Veterans Start-Up Plan** – Home Administrator Jennifer Manning provided a review of the new Home to include occupancy, recruitment, service contracts, IT services, certifications, FF&E, PPE, and pharmacy services. The ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Home is tentatively scheduled for March 2021.

**Board Meeting Dates for 2021** – The motion to approve the meeting dates for 2021 was tabled until the December 15, 2020 board meeting

## 9. Public Comment

Corey Doan, Michigan Veterans' Facility Ombudsman, addressed the board's ruling on the new smoking policy at the new Homes. He expressed his dissatisfaction that there was a lack of critical dissent amongst board member and this policy is an additional barrier to veterans in utilizing the Michigan Veteran Homes. He noted that veteran councils and veterans were not involved in the development of the policy, and this will have a large impact on the members; veterans may be forced to quit smoking or find a new home. Mr. Doan will continue to work for the Michigan veterans and advocate on their behalf; however, he is dissatisfied that there was not more involvement from all parties in this decision.

## 10. Board of Directors Comments

Zaneta Adams – indicated that she had nothing to add. Ms. Adams expressed that the MVAA is making great strides in veteran outreach efforts. Two MVAA staff will be leaving the agency; however, this provides an opportunity to refine future outreach opportunities.

Brad Slagle – expressed that he had nothing to add, and that it was nice to see everyone on the call.

Henry Boutros – wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Ken Robbins – remarked that this was an excellent meeting. He also expressed his desire for a high-level overview of the COVID-19 pandemic's effect on veterans within the Home during the next meeting.

Larry Yachcik – stated that after four years of preparation, this is an exciting time to market the new Homes and bring veterans to the new facilities. He added that there has been a tremendous amount of work performed by the board and staff, and he is looking forward to the opening of the new Homes.

David Rutledge – wished everyone a wonderful holiday season and to stay safe.

Chair Henry – expressed that we are thankful people, and this is a time to reflect with our families; we are very blessed. The boards' work is honorable for the veterans and he thanked both boards for their work.

## 11. Adjournment

*Yachcik, seconded by Slagle, motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 7-0.*

The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.



Bradford Slagle,  
MVFA Board Secretary