



MICHIGAN VETERAN HOMES BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

June 16, 2020
10:00 a.m.

APPROVED MINUTES

A meeting of the Michigan Veteran Homes (MVH) Board of Directors was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Chair David Henry. The meeting was conducted at the construction site of the future Michigan Veteran Home in Chesterfield Township. This 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, Henry Boutros (via telephone), David Henry, Mary Naber, Ken Robbins, David Rutledge, MaryAnne Shannon (via telephone), Brad Slagle, Larry Yachcik

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

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

Guests (in-person): Laura Birchmeier, Daniel Acciavatti, Karen Gharbie

Guests (via telephone): Christine Apostol, Erica Bobrowski, Corey Doan, Sean Depuydt, Betty Pike, Assistant Attorney General Katie Waskiewicz, et al.

3. Approval of Proposed Agenda

Rutledge, seconded by Adams, motioned to accept the meeting agenda dated June 16, 2020 as presented. The motion passed 9-0.

4. Public Comment

None

5. Approval of Proposed Minutes Dated May 6, 2020

Slagle, seconded by Yachcik, motioned to accept the meeting minutes dated May 6, 2020 as presented. The motion passed 9-0.

6. New Board Business

Chair Henry called for nominations for the position of treasurer for the Michigan Veteran Board of Directors, reiterating that secretary and treasurer positions could be served by one member.

Henry, seconded by Rutledge, nominated Brad Slagle for the position of treasurer. The motion passed 9-0.

Rutledge, seconded by Adams, motioned to close the nominations for the position of treasurer and elect Brad Slagle as the MVH Board of Directors Treasurer. The motion passed 9-0.

Chair Henry called for a motion to adopt the revised committee descriptions for the MVH Board of Directors.

Shannon, seconded by Naber, motioned to accept the revised committee descriptions as presented. The motion passed 9-0.

Chair Henry recommended the following board members to serve as committee chairs:

- Facility and Capital Improvement – Henry Boutros
- Budget and Financial Oversight – Brad Slagle
- Outreach and Fund Development – Larry Yachcik
- Governance and Policy Development – David Rutledge

Adams, seconded by Slagle, motioned to accept the recommended committee chairs as presented by Chair Henry. The motion passed 9-0.

Chair Henry opted to table the designation of board members to serve on the committees and will work collaboratively with the committee chairs in this effort.

7. New Business

Anne Zerbe presented an update on the Homes' response to the COVID-19 pandemic to include the current status of the isolation units, the availability of member and staff COVID-related statistics on the DMVA website, and the work accomplished thus far in creating a reopening plan. Steve Rolston added that IT options have been purchased for employee and visitor screening, along with signage for the activity and dining rooms. Anne Zerbe added that there has been frustration on behalf of caregivers and administrators regarding mandated furloughs and premium pay guidance from the Department of Civil Service. The MVH Leadership Team continues to work with DMVA Human Resources staff to receive clarification on these issues.

Chair Henry and Chair Johnson sent a letter offering support to furloughed staff. Larry Yachcik offered the board's support to the MVH Leadership Team to address the concerns of staff.

Anne Zerbe suggested that the board members read the draft of the MVH MI Safe Open Plan. As additional guidelines are incorporated into the draft, Ms. Zerbe will disseminate plan updates. She also stressed the need to get the members out of their rooms and to ensure their psychosocial needs are met. Chair Henry complimented the MVH Leadership Team on the content of the plan thus far.

Chair Henry asked Steve Rolston about the preplanning steps regarding the opening of the future Home in Chesterfield Township. Mr. Rolston stated that interviews are scheduled within the next few weeks for the Home administrator. He added that staffing plans are on hold until the Governor's Office determines if the staff will be State of Michigan employees or contracted employees. The first neighborhood in the Home is slated to open in February 2021, with CMS certification anticipated in April 2021.

A discussion was conducted amongst the board members regarding the utilization of State of Michigan employees versus contracted employees within the Homes.

Mike Hassan offered the board a review of the COVID-19 pandemic on construction efforts at the Homes. Construction of the Homes was shut down, per the Governor's executive order, March 25, 2020 through May 10, 2020. The Home in Chesterfield Township is slated to open in February 2021 and the new Grand Rapids Home for Veterans is estimated to open in April 2021.

Tours of both construction sites will be conducted within the next month for local officials, GRHV staff and members. Board members are encouraged to attend a tour in Grand Rapids; tour dates will be available in the near future. Mike Hassan is at the Grand Rapids construction site every Thursday and welcomes the board members to tour the site.

8. Public Comments

Daniel Acciavatti, Chesterfield Township Supervisor, stated that the township is proud of and wants to partner with the new veterans' home, emphasizing that the township is "all in". He also inquired as to the status of the bald eagles on the grounds. Mike Hassan stated that the eagles and their offspring are often seen by workers and their nest is surrounded by fencing for protection. Chair Henry thanked Supervisor Acciavatti for his willingness to partner with the new home.

Michigan Veterans' Facility Ombudsman, Corey Doan, stated that the Homes' staff has done a phenomenal job with members, as reflected by satisfaction survey feedback provided by members. He also stated that there is a 10-50 percent increase in turnover with contracted employees, and there are statistical differences with the quality of care.

9. Board Comments

Ken Robbins - commended the work performed by both boards and emphasized that there is a lot of work that goes into opening a new facility.

Larry Yachcik – the work accomplished so far could not have been completed without the efforts of Steve Rolston and Anne Zerbe.

Mary Naber – the MVH Leadership Team has demonstrated the ability to work well together and keep current with new issues. She suggested keeping the mission in mind and to create an environment of stability.

Chair Henry – The MVH Leadership Team has done an awesome job and needs to keep forging ahead.

David Rutledge – The partnership between the township and Home is important; keep communication ongoing.

Zaneta Adams – the staff has done a phenomenal job. Her one-year work anniversary is coming up and this process has been a rollercoaster. The Homes have a partnership with the MVAA, and the outreach campaign is changing to a regionally coordinated effort.

Brad Slagle – attended the National Association of State Veterans Homes in February. The Homes are well-received by Senator Gary Peters who was instrumental in the successful effort to increase funding for the State Veterans Home Construction Grant Program.

Larry Yachcik and Brad Slagle – They were tasked with coordinating donations for staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. They have met with DTMB and are making progress with this initiative.

MaryAnne Shannon – She echoed the strength of the MVH Leadership Team and reiterates the importance of outside partnerships.

10. Adjournment

Adams, seconded by Naber, motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.



Bradford Slagle,
MVFA Board Secretary