

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
South Dakota Veterans Commission Meeting
January 12, 2017
American Legion Post 8 - Pierre, SD

The meeting of the South Dakota Veterans Commission was called to order at 9:00 am (CT) on Thursday, January 12, 2017, by Chairman Helen Parr. The meeting was held at Post 8 American Legion in Pierre, SD.

Chairman Parr noted that all legal requirements as outlined in SDCL 1-25-1 and 1-25-1.1 were met with regard to this meeting.

Roll Call - Commissioners present were: Helen Parr, Jim Ross, Mike Birnbaum, and KC Russell.

Staff Present: Secretary Larry Zimmerman, Deputy Secretary Aaron Pollard, Public Information Officer Audry Ricketts, and Program Manager Erin Brown.

Deputy Secretary Pollard introduced SDDVA's new Program Manager Erin Brown.

Review of Agenda – Chairman Parr asked if there were any additions or changes for the proposed agenda. A motion was made by Commissioner Russell, seconded by Commissioner Ross, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Consideration of Minutes – Chairman Parr asked the Commission how they wished to handle the November 18-19, 2016, Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Russell moved approval as presented, seconded by Commissioner Birnbaum and motion carried.

Legislative Update – Chairman Parr called on SDDVA Secretary Larry Zimmerman for the legislative update. Secretary Zimmerman reviewed the legislative items the Veterans Council was pursuing. He noted that SDDVA was not planning to introduce any legislation at this time. Discussion ensued regarding legislation other groups/individuals might be bringing forward, as well as the proposal the Watertown community is considering with regard to a veterans cemetery.

State Veterans Home Update - Chairman Parr called on SDDVA Secretary Larry Zimmerman for an update on the state veteran's home. Secretary Zimmerman noted that the Home would be going through VA certification process later this month. He also briefed the Commission on census data and employee training.

SDJF Update - Chairman Parr called on SDDVA Secretary Larry Zimmerman for an update on South Dakota Joining Forces. Secretary Zimmerman briefed the Commission on the community briefings that have been hosted by SDJF. He also noted that we need to get the word out about the program and the goals as we are seven months into our contract for this project.

Veterans Council Update – Chairman Parr provided a South Dakota Veterans Council Update. Parr reviewed some of the legislative issues that the Council had been discussing and reported on the discussions and attendance at the legislative roundtables that were held in Sioux Falls and Rapid City.

Old Business – The Commission discussed the VABHHCS Hot Springs and the recent release of the Record of Decision.

New Business – None

A motion was made by Commissioner Birnbaum, seconded by Commissioner Russell, to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 10:30 am (CT).

Helen Parr, Chairman