

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
South Dakota Veterans Commission Meeting
January 10, 2018
Prairies Room – RedRossa Grille - Pierre, SD

The meeting of the South Dakota Veterans Commission was called to order at 9:00 am (CT) on Wednesday, January 10, 2018, by Chairman Lori Vosika. The meeting was held in the Prairies Room at the RedRossa in Pierre, SD.

Chairman Vosika noted that all legal requirements as outlined in SDCL 1-25-1 and 1-25-1.1 were met for this meeting.

Roll Call - Commissioners present were: Lori Vosika, Helen Parr, Brooks Schild, Kella With Horn and KC Russell.

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

Guests in attendance were Ken Teunissen, Royce Loesch and Manaja Hill.

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

Consideration of Minutes – Chairman Vosika asked the Commission how they wished to handle the October 3, 2017, Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Russell moved approval as presented, seconded by Commissioner Schild and motion carried.

SDDVA Update – Chairman Vosika called on Secretary Zimmerman for the SDDVA Update. Zimmerman reported on legislative session, SDDVA legislative bills and constituent bills, the proposed Military and Veterans Legislative Committee, transportation grants, SDJF, MJF State Veterans Home, WW II Veteran recognition program, and veteran’s preference. Zimmerman reviewed agency bills HB 1009, HB 1010, and HB 1025. With regard to the State Veterans Home, Zimmerman reported that the Home had recently been under quarantine twice, awards received, VA inspection, DOH inspection, construction of new maintenance shop, and the real estate that is up for sale. SDJF Executive Director Erin Bultje provided the Commission with an update on South Dakota Joining Forces. She also shared views of the new website and social media.

Manaja Hill, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe VSO shared frustrations he was having with the South Dakota Department of Labor and staffing for the rural and tribal areas. Secretary Zimmerman noted he would set up an appointment with the Secretary for the South Dakota Department of Labor and would report back at the next meeting

Partner Reports - Chairman Vosika called on SDDVA Deputy Secretary Pollard for partner reports. Pollard reviewed reports received from the Black Hills VA Health Care System, Sioux Falls VA Health Care System, Black Hills National Cemetery, VA Dakota Regional Office and the SDDVA Claims Office.

South Dakota Veterans Council Update – Chairman Vosika called on Helen Parr for the South Dakota Veterans Council Update. Parr reported on the Veterans Council legislative roundtables that had been held in Sioux Falls, Watertown, and Rapid City. She then asked Ken Teunissen to brief the Commission on the South Dakota Veterans Council legislative agenda – a East River Veterans Cemetery. After a very detailed briefing and considerable discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Russell, seconded by Commissioner Parr, that the South Dakota

Veterans Commission support the South Dakota Veterans Council in their endeavors to secure a State Veterans Cemetery in eastern South Dakota. Motion carried.

Old Business – None

New Business – Chairman Vosika opened the floor for discussion on the Commission’s mission, vision, and role. After considerable discussion, the Commission thought it might be good to have a strategic planning session in conjunction with a future Commission meeting to devote more time to this subject.

Commissioners asked that the following topics be added to the next meeting agenda, along with the strategic planning session; DOL follow-up report from Secretary Zimmerman, Code of Conduct, and a report on the SDCL that provides protections for Commission member in their role as commissioners.

A motion was made by Commissioner Schild, seconded by Commissioner Parr, to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 12:35 pm (CT).

Lori Vosika, Chairman