

August 3, 2023

Powells Creek

Veterans Commission

MINUTES

Members

Dr. Vanessa M. Gattis
Nancy Jean-Louis
Donnell E. Johns, Sr.
Cheryl S. H. Lamar

Tim Parrish
Joshua Quill
Dean Woodard

Present: Commissioners Vanessa Gattis, Donnell E. Johns, Sr., Tim Parrish, Joshua Quill, Dean Woodard; Director of Human Resources Joseph Gilkerson and Admin Stacy Anderson. Chair Tim Parrish called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Minutes

- Minutes of July 6, 2023, were approved (Quill-motion/Gattis-seconded/Unanimous).

Public Comment Time

- None.

Administrative Remarks

- Chair Parrish asked for Staff to check on the email issues for Commissioner Jean-Louis, Commissioner Quill, and Commissioner Woodard.

Work Session

- Chair Parrish discussed the resolution package to be sent to the Board for approval. These resolutions are:
 - That the county facility dedicated to addressing mental health concerns within our community have office space, examination rooms, professional staff, and otherwise needed designated physical space specifically dedicated to addressing and treating the mental health issues facing veterans within the Prince William County, commensurate with existing services being provided in the facility;
 - That the county provides preference or expedited consideration to nonprofit organizations who apply for community partner designation, and, or grants that meet the transportation needs of veterans within the Prince William County community, with a focus on meeting the transportation needs of veterans to healthcare appointments and other life necessity requirements;
 - That the Board grant exempt status to the Willing Warriors 501(c)(3) organization of Gainesville, in order to alleviate the tax burden of the

organization whose mission it is to provide cost-free retreat stays and programs that positively impact wounded, ill, and injured service members, disabled Veterans, and their families;

- That the Prince William County Veterans Commission hereby recommends to the Board of County Supervisors that the Board proffer a directive to reestablish the county employee position of Veteran Service Representative within the Area Agency on Aging, in order to professionally streamline the efficient communication, coordination, and administration of support to Prince William County Veterans.
- The Commission discussed packaging the resolutions individually or as a group. The Commission voted to combine the resolutions in one package and a single package was approved (Parrish-motion/Lamar-seconded/Unanimous).
- Discussed how the Commission inbox works. Staff explained that emails sent to the inbox only come to staff and then the emails are distributed by staff to Commissioners.
- Chair Parrish discussed reviewing Standing Rules one more time.
- Discussed holding a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) refresher for the Commissioners.

Old Business

- None.

New Business

- None.

Commissioners Time

- Commissioner Lamar – Discussed an article in the Army Times regarding mobile medical units to be deployed across the United States to aid homeless veterans.
- Commissioner Gattis – Thank the staff for their work. Notified commission of back-to-school event for the community on August 12, 2023, from 10am – 2pm at Freedom High School. The event will be school supplies, vaccines, dental screenings, and mental health for the kids.
- Commissioner Quill – Notified commission of the Coast Guard's birthday on August 4th, Purple Heart Day on August 7th, and the Marine Corps 107th birthday on August 29th.
- Commissioner Parrish – Thanked staff for their work.

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm. (Quill-motion/Gattis-seconded/unanimous)