

## OPEN MINUTES

**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Meeting of the  
Missouri Veterans Commission  
April 24, 2023 — 10:00 AM  
Harry S Truman State Office Building  
301 W. High Street, Room 492  
Jefferson City, MO**

**WebEx Conference Call was established for public to join.**

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I. CALL TO ORDER

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call

Commissioners in attendance in room or via WebEx Conference Call:  
Vice Chair Meredith Knopp; Commissioner Tim Smith; Commissioner Steve Roberts; Commissioner Randy Alewel; Commissioner Steve Maples; Commissioner Robert Sauls; Commissioner David Griffith  
Absent: Chair Kelly McClelland; Commissioner Rick Brattin

3. Chair Opening Comments

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. First Quarter Commission Meeting Open Minutes from January 23, 2023
2. First Quarter Commission Meeting Closed Minutes from January 23, 2023
3. Minutes were unanimously voted to approve as written by those in attendance

III. NEW BUSINESS

Selection of Commission Officers

- a. Chair Nominations
  - Kelly McClelland
  - No further nominations
  - Kelly McClelland voted in with unanimous Roll Call vote by all in attendance
- b. Vice Chair Nominations
  - Meredith Knopp
  - No further nominations
  - Meredith Knopp voted in with unanimous Roll Call vote by all in attendance

IV. COMMISSION UPDATES

1. Executive Director
  - a. All Veterans Homes are admitting
    - January 2023 – 648 Veterans
    - April 2023 – 714 Veterans
  - b. State budget due from Legislature no later than May 5, 2023
  - c. Marijuana & Gaming funding – Unstable
  - d. Korean War Veterans Armistice Day Celebration
  - e. COVID Update
2. Human Resources Briefed
  - a. Vacancies (Homes)
  - b. Recruitment Campaign
3. Veteran Cemeteries Program Briefed:
  - a. Upcoming Events:
    - Peer Review Visit – Springfield      May 10, 2023
    - Memorial Day Ceremonies              May 29, 2023

- Jacksonville 9:00am
  - Bloomfield 1:00pm
  - Ft Wood 1:00pm
  - Higginsville 1:00pm
  - Springfield 1:00pm
- b. Future Projects (expected allocation FY 24):
    - Springfield - Columbarium Wall/Site Improvements (100% Reimbursable)
    - Higginsville - Columbarium Wall/Site Improvements (100% Reimbursable)
  - c. Satisfaction Survey Results
  - d. Interments and capacity of columbarium walls
  - e. Plot Allowance Payments Received
4. Veteran Services Program Briefed:
    - a. Return on Investment
    - b. Personnel
    - c. VSP Claims Comparison FY2020 – FY2022
    - d. Satisfaction Survey Results
  5. Veteran Homes Program Briefed:
    - a. Satisfaction Survey Results
    - b. Annual VA Survey Certifications
    - c. Increasing Census
    - d. Masking Updates (COVID-19 Community Transmission)
    - e. Reasons to Celebrate
    - f. Quality Measures
  6. Fiscal Update:
    - a. Budget and Finance Highlights
      - FY2022 Annual Financial Audit – no findings
      - FY2022 Single Audit – awaiting determination
      - 8.7% pay increase – awaiting cash transfer
      - Appropriations Operational Budget - Senate
      - Appropriations Maintenance and Repair and Capital Improvement Budget - House
      - CARES One-Time Spending
      - Medical Marijuana Spending Major Funding Sources – Homes Fund
    - b. Veterans Home Fund Major Revenues
      - 85% of projected average census achieved
      - 66% of projected Revenues for the year received
    - c. Veterans Homes Fund – Dedicated Revenues vs. Expenditures
    - d. Veterans Homes Fund – Dedicated Revenues with VCCITF Support vs. Expenditures
    - e. Veterans Homes Fund – Dedicated Revenues with VCCITF and Additional State Support vs. Expenditures
    - f. Veterans Commission Capital Improvement Trust Fund (VCCITF) Major Revenue
    - g. Veterans Commission Capital Improvement Trust Fund (VCCITF) Dedicated Revenues vs. Expenses
    - h. Veterans Assistance Fund Major Revenues
    - i. FY24 Governor Recommendations – Additional Cash to support Veterans Homes Fund Solvency
- II. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:
- a. Representative Dave Griffith
  - b. Senator Stephen Roberts

III. AGENCY PARTNERS UPDATE

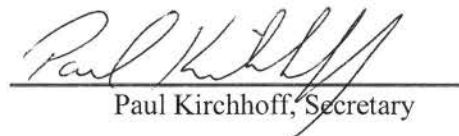
1. Dr. Sybil Wyatt, Interim Associate Director, Kansas City VA Medical Center
  - a. VA Directive is to continue masking until regional transmission rate is down
  - b. PACT Act Town Halls being held
    - Outreach to have Veterans screened
    - Next Town Hall will be May 11
  - c. PACT Act funding: Providing funding to lease >100,000 sq. ft. building for new health care initiatives
  - d. Upcoming hiring event
2. Dr. Sybil Wyatt, Interim Associate Director, Kansas City VA Medical Center
  - a. VA Directive is to continue masking until regional transmission rate is down
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3. Fabian Grabski, Deputy Director, St. Louis VA Medical Center
  - a. Lots of Town Halls
  - b. PACT Act screenings
  - c. Hiring Fair
  - d. CBOCs: Over the next three years, all St. Louis CBOCs will expand
  - e. Marion, Illinois is instituting a new CBOC
  - f. John Cochran has over \$1 billion in Project Budget for FY 24'
    - 6 Year Project
  - g. May 13<sup>th</sup> is the 100<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration of Jefferson Barracks
4. Troy Williams, MAVO Deputy Chairman
  - a. What do Veterans Organizations do?
    - Taking care of Veterans
    - House, car, food, rent, transportation
  - b. The \$1.6 million budget needs to be increased
  - c. VA hospitals are calling Veterans in for screenings and the Veterans are not sure what the purpose is for the call
  - d. New Community Nursing Homes are popping up and the VA does not seem to be inspecting them
  - e. Need to communicate with VA and CMS to ensure they are aware of these facilities

IV. CHAIR COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Commission Meeting will be held on July 24, 2023  
10:00 AM; Place (Missouri Veterans Commission Veterans Home – St. Louis)
2. 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Commission Meeting will be held on October 23, 2023  
10:00 AM in the Harry S Truman State Office Building, 301 West High Street,  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

V. ADJOURNMENT

With no Closed Session and no further business before the Commission, meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote.

  
Paul Kirchoff, Secretary