



County of El Dorado

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

Minutes - Draft Veteran Affairs Commission

Todd Smith, District I - Alternate Robert Fischer
Roger Reynolds, District II - Alternate Donna Mullens-Becker
Christopher Vinton, District III - Alternate Seth Culver
Ken Welch, District IV - Alternate Tim Thompson
Gary Norton, District V - Alternate Thomas Millham
Jon Brown, VSO, Secretary Ex-Officio
Courtney Frame, Recording Clerk of Veteran Affairs
Commission

Thursday, March 13, 2025

12:00 PM

<https://edcgov-us.zoom.us/j/91249101434>

**3883 Ponderosa Rd, El Dorado County Child Support Services, Shingle Springs, CA
95682**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION INSTRUCTIONS: The Commission meeting room will be open to the public. The meeting will continue to be live-streamed via Zoom. By participating in this meeting, you acknowledge that you are being recorded.

To observe the live stream of the Commission meeting go to <https://edcgov-us.zoom.us/j/91249101434>. Members of the public may address the Commission in-person or via Zoom to make a public comment. The public should call into 530-621-7603 or 530-621-7610. The Meeting ID is 912 4910 1434. Please note you will not be able to join the live-stream until the posted meeting start time. If you are joining the meeting via zoom and wish to make a comment on an item, press the "raise hand" button. If you are joining the meeting by phone, press *9 to indicate a desire to make a comment. Speakers will be limited to 3 minutes.

Although the County strives to offer remote participation, be advised that remote Zoom participation is provided for convenience only. In the event of a technological malfunction, the only assurance of live comments being received by the Commission is to attend in person. Except for a noticed teleconference meeting, the Commission reserves the right to conduct the meeting without remote access if there is a malfunction.

If you choose not to observe the Commission meeting but wish to make a comment on a specific agenda item, please submit your comment in writing. You are encouraged to submit your comment in writing by 4:00 PM on the Tuesday before the meeting to ensure the Commission has adequate time to review. Please submit your comment to the Clerk of the Board at edc.cob@edcgov.us. Your comment will be placed into the record and forwarded to Commission members.

PROTOCOLS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment will be received at designated periods as called by the Commission Chair.

Individuals will have three minutes to address the Commission. Except with the consent of the Commission, individuals shall be allowed to speak to an item only once.

Individual Commission members may ask clarifying questions but will not engage in substantive dialogue with persons providing input to the Commission.

If a person providing input to the Commission creates a disruption by refusing to follow Commission guidelines, the Commission Chair may take the following actions:

Step 1. Request the person adhere to Commission guidelines. If the person refuses, the Commission Chair may turn off the speaker's microphone.

Step 2. If the disruption continues, the Commission Chair may order a recess of the Commission meeting.

Step 3. If the disruption continues, the Commission Chair may order the removal of the person from the Commission meeting.

CALL TO ORDER - PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG - 12:00 PM**ROLL CALL**

Present: 9 - Commissioner Norton, Commissioner Welch, Commissioner Millham, Alternate Mullens, Alternate Fischer, Chair Reynolds, Alternate Culver, Vice Chair Smith and Commissioner Vinton

Absent: 1 - Alternate Thompson

Commissioner Millham attended the meeting via zoom. Commissioner Norton and Commissioner Welch arrived after Roll Call. Norton arrived at 12:04 PM, Welch arrived at 12:15 PM.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS AND WELCOME**ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR**

All items on the Consent Calendar are to be approved by one motion unless a Commission member requests separate action on a specific item including moving items to or from the Consent Calendar and adopt the Agenda and the Consent Calendar for discussion. At the appropriate time as called by the Chair, members of the public may make a comment on matters on the Consent Calendar prior to Commission action.

CONSENT CALENDAR

25-0452 Commission to review and approve mileage reimbursement for Veteran Affairs Commissioners for the month of February 2025.

Attachments: [February 2025 MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT](#)

25-0453 Commission to review and approve Veteran Affairs Commission February 13, 2025 meeting minutes.

Attachments: [Draft Minutes Veteran Affairs Commission 2-13-25](#)

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

A motion to adopt the agenda and approve the consent calendar was made by Commissioner Vinton; seconded by Commissioner Smith.

Yes: 4 - Commissioner Norton, Chair Reynolds, Vice Chair Smith and Commissioner Vinton

Before Agenda Item 25-0454 was discussed, Maggie Williams, Health and Human Services Agency Program Manager for Veteran Services, asked the Commission if anyone on the Commission who would be voting was a member of the Veteran Alliance. She stated that if anyone on the Commission was a member of the Veteran Alliance they would need to recuse themselves from Agenda Item 20-0454. No one on the Commission stated they were a member of the Veterans Alliance.

Commissioner Smith stated not all of the Commissioners received the email containing all the information for the March Agenda.

AGENDA ITEMS

25-0454

Lynette Engelhardt Stott, Deputy Director of El Dorado County Health and Humans Services Agency (HHSA) Community Services Division, to discuss and present “El Dorado County Veterans Monument Criteria for Military Honoraria and Civilian Recognition,” including public feedback received related to the Criteria, and options for proposed updated language to the Criteria. Veteran Affairs Commission to review and provide recommendation(s) for their preferred options to updated language of the Criteria. HHSA to provide the recommendation(s) of the Veteran Affairs Commission to the County Board of Supervisors during the Board’s April 8, 2025 meeting.

Attachments: [El Dorado County Veterans Monument Criteria](#)

[EDC Veterans Monument Criteria with Options - Word Doc](#)

[Veterans Monument Survey Results 2025](#)

[PowerPoint - EDC Veterans Monument Criteria with Options - March 2025](#)

[Public Comment VAC Rcvd 3-13-2025](#)

Public Comment: K. Schoniger, B. Sweet, J. Poimiroo, D. Wolfson, L. McAdams, E. Nelson

Englehardt Stott reviewed the PowerPoint with options for the Veterans Monument Criteria language. The purpose of presenting at the March VAC meeting was to gather feedback and recommendations from the VAC, as directed by the County Board of Supervisors. The input collected during the March 13, 2025, VAC meeting was to be gathered by HHSA and brought back to the Board at the Board's April 8th meeting.

Commissioner Smith initiated a motion citing major issues with the verbiage in all options; flawed language; everybody involved was not given the proper information; each document contains facts that contradict each other; and it is not in good governance or acting in good faith. He asked that the Board of Supervisors authorize the Commission and direct County Council and other people in the County, Health and Human Services, Veterans Alliance, our fellow brothers and sisters with our veterans' groups and the public to address these issues. And to not recommend or adopt anything moving forward at this point and bring it back to the Board for further guidance. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vinton.

Yes: 5 - Commissioner Norton, Commissioner Welch, Chair Reynolds, Vice Chair Smith and Commissioner Vinton

25-0499

On January 28, 2025, El Dorado County Board of Supervisors adopted Section 10.12.145 of Chapter 10.12 of Title 10 of the El Dorado County Ordinance Code entitled County parking lots-restricted parking. The Ordinance regulates parking of vehicles in County-owned or operated lots as designated by a Board of Supervisors Resolution. The Resolution will be brought to the Board in April. The new section of Chapter 10.12 restricts parking pursuant to the Resolution with exceptions for County personnel or during occasions or events as declared by the Chief Administrative Officer. The intention of the Resolution will be to restrict overnight parking and parking on weekends when County offices are closed to the public. This change was required to establish county-wide regulations that better safeguard public health, safety and the environment. The Resolution is currently being drafted and will include a specific number of dedicated parking spaces for the Veterans Monument (currently proposed at 5 spaces) and extended hours, seven days per week. HHSA is seeking feedback from the Veterans Affairs Commission regarding the proposed language.

Engelhardt Stott reviewed the draft language for the El Dorado County Parking Resolution because it could have an impact on parking at the Veterans Monument. Engelhardt Stott informed the VAC that this Parking Resolution would not affect parking for Memorial Day or Veterans Day events at the Veterans Monument. Commissioner Smith raised questions about the Parking Resolution and its potential impact on homelessness. Engelhardt Stott clarified that the document was still in draft form for El Dorado County buildings and that it would be presented to the Board in April. Engelhardt Stott encouraged the VAC and other veterans to attend the April Board meeting if they had any questions or concerns about the Parking Resolution. Commissioner Reynolds expressed that he believed the provision of five spaces for the Veterans Monument, with a two-hour limit, was reasonable for visitors.

Attachments: [Executed Ordinance 5222](#)

[Draft language for El Dorado County Parking Resolution](#)

Public Comment: J. Poimiroo

25-0455

Veteran Affairs Commission to discuss and decide on goals for the Veteran Affairs Commission to accomplish for the 2025 year.

Commissioner Reynolds asked the Veteran Affairs Commission (VAC) about the goals they wanted to achieve for the year 2025. Reynolds stated that he would like to continue utilizing excess funds from the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT), invite more guest speakers from organizations receiving TOT grants, have guest speakers from veteran-owned businesses in El Dorado County, and explore opportunities to expand education and employment for veterans. Commissioner Fischer added that he would like the VAC to place greater emphasis on the Stand Down event.

EX-OFFICIO REPORT - RECEIVE AND FILE (Brown)

25-0557

Veterans Service Officer (VSO) Brown reported that he, along with Veterans Service Representative (VSR) I Christopher Diggins, attended the California Association of County Veterans Service Officers (CACVSO) Winter Training Conference in Wheatland, California, during the week of February 23-28. The conference covered various topics, including upcoming regulation changes that will impact claims for Sleep Apnea and Tinnitus. These changes are scheduled to take effect in July 2025. Next, Brown reported that, during the month of February, the Veterans Services Office received 157 walk-in visitors, 70 scheduled appointments, and 252 phone calls. Next, Brown reported that for the July 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024 audit period, the Veterans Services Office successfully assisted veterans and their dependents in securing over \$1 million in retroactive payments and \$164,324.29 in recurring monthly payments. Lastly, Brown reported that there were no changes to the services provided to veterans and their families in the South Lake Tahoe area.

Attachments: [Veterans Services Ex-officio Report March 2025](#)

COMMITTEE REPORTS - RECEIVE AND FILE

- TOT (Transient Occupancy Tax) (Reynolds) - Commissioner Reynolds stated that the El Dorado Community Foundation would be open in April for veteran organizations to apply for the VA TOT Mini-Grants. Commissioner Smith wanted to confirm that the El Dorado Community Foundation VA TOT Mini-Grants would be approved up to \$20,000 for the 2025 Mini-Grant cycle only. Commissioner Mullens-Becker confirmed with Smith that the funds would be increased to \$20,000 only for the 2025 Mini-Grant Cycle.
- RULES (Welch) - Commissioner Welch stated there was nothing to report.
- HOUSING (Welch) - Commissioner Welch stated that there has been no changes to ADU's (Accessory Dwelling Units) being available without a primary residence. El Dorado County does not give out Stand Alone permits for ADUs at this time.
- LEGISLATIVE (Smith) - Commissioner Smith stated there was nothing to report.
- TRANSPORTATION (Thompson) - Commissioner Thompson was not available to provide a report.
- BUDGET (Reynolds/Mullens-Becker) - Commissioner Reynolds stated there was nothing to report.
- EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT (Mullens-Becker) - Commissioner Mullens-Becker stated there was nothing to report.
- OUTREACH (Reynolds) - Commissioner Reynolds stated that the Veteran Affairs Commission Facebook currently had 1500 followers and Reynolds goal was to get it to 2000 followers by the end of the year.

Public Comment: D. Zelinsky

COMMUNICATIONS' REPORTS - RECEIVE AND FILE

- **VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING – VETERANS HOUSE COUNCIL (Reynolds)** - Commissioner Reynolds reported that the Veterans Memorial Building House Council did not meet in March due to illness. Zelinsky inquired about the possibility of a make-up House Council meeting. Commissioner Culver explained that it was challenging to achieve a quorum for the proposed make-up meeting on March 13, and it was unlikely that a meeting would take place for the month of March.
- **AMERICAN LEGION SERVICE OFFICER (Zelinsky)** - Zelinsky reported that the Veterans Services Office had recently referred several veterans to him for assistance. The veteran he helped was escaping a domestic abuse situation with their teenage child. Zelinsky collaborated with Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) 2580 to secure a hotel room for the veteran and their child. Within a few days of Zelinsky connecting with the veteran, The Upper Room was able to arrange for their placement at Victory Village. Next, Zelinsky reported that he has been working with Commissioner Millham to assist a homeless veteran in South Lake Tahoe. He referred the veteran to Mather and advised the veteran to seek support from Homeless Primary Guaranteed Care for services such as social work, medical assistance, and housing. Next, Zelinsky reported that he has been collaborating with Millham to support several homeless veterans in South Lake Tahoe who had previously been arrested. Lastly, Zelinsky reported that he has been assisting a veteran with a bad conduct discharge. This veteran has been working with the Veteran Services Office to pursue a discharge upgrade and service connection for trauma sustained during military service. Zelinsky is helping the veteran connect with Only Kindness to address outstanding debts, while VFW 2680 is assisting with obtaining parts for their vehicle.
- **EDC VETERANS ALLIANCE** - Poimiroo reported that Memorial Day is approaching, and the Veterans Alliance has yet to secure a speaker or theme for the event. However, these details are expected to be finalized by Memorial Day. Commissioner Smith expressed hope for sunny weather on Memorial Day, recalling the downpour of cold rain on Veterans Day. Poimiroo also extended gratitude to Lynette Engelhardt Stott and former Board of Supervisors member Wendy Thomas for their assistance during the Veterans Day event last year by opening the County Building on Fair Lane, allowing the event to move indoors and out of the rain.
- **VA VET CENTER/MILITARY FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP/EL DORADO VETERAN RESOURCES (Whalen)** - Whalen was not available to provide a report.
- **REGIONAL VETERAN EVENTS** - Commissioner Reynolds stated there was nothing to report.

Public Comment: D. Zelinsky, J. Poimiroo

GOOD OF THE ORDER (COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS)

Commissioner Millham expressed gratitude to Commissioner Culver and David Zelinsky for their support in funding efforts to assist homeless veterans in South Lake Tahoe. He highlighted the challenges posed by heavy snowfall and the limited availability of affordable housing, escalated by external buyers purchasing local properties. Millham emphasized the importance of helping veterans in need and acknowledged the efforts of veteran organizations in addressing housing issues in El Dorado County.

OPEN FORUM

Open Forum is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Veteran Affairs Commission on subject matter that is not on their meeting agenda and within their jurisdiction. Public comments during Open Forum are limited to three minutes per person. The Commission Chair may limit public comment during Open Forum.

Public Comment: K. Schoniger, J. Poimiroo, L. McAdams

NEXT MEETING LOCATION, DATE & TIME

April 10, 2025 at 12:00 PM

330 Fair Lane, Building A

BOS Chamber

Placerville, CA 95667

ADJOURNMENT - 1:26 PM