



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
Peter Wolfe, District III
Ken Welch, District IV – Alternate Tim Thompson
Gary Norton, District V
Jon Brown, VSO, Secretary Ex-Officio
Vacant, District 3 Alternate
Vacant, District 5 Alternate
Courtney Frame, Recording Clerk of Veteran Affairs
Commission

Thursday, May 9, 2024

12:00 PM

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

330 Fair Lane, Bldg A, Conf. Room D
Placerville, CA 95667

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.

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

- Present:** 5 - Vice Chair Smith, Commissioner Reynolds, Commissioner Norton, Chair Welch and Commissioner Wolfe
- Absent:** 3 - Alternate Mullens, Alternate Thompson and Alternate Fischer

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS AND WELCOME**C. 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.

D. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. **24-0839** Commission to review and approve mileage reimbursement for Veteran Affairs Commissioners for the month of April 2024.

Attachments: [April 2024 MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT](#)

2. **24-0840** Commission to review and approve Veteran Affairs Commission April 11, 2024 meeting minutes.

Attachments: [Draft Minutes Veteran Affairs Commission 4-11-24](#)

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

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

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR**E. AGENDA ITEMS**

After Agenda Item 24-0860 was announced, Commissioner Wolfe recused himself from participating due to his being a member of the El Dorado County Veterans Alliance. After Commissioner Wolfe recused himself, he stepped outside the room until all discussion and votes were completed for Agenda Item 24-0860.

3. **24-0860** Veteran Affairs Commission (VAC) to rescind approval of the El Dorado County Veterans Monument Policy Draft from the March 14, 2024 VAC Meeting.

Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) has scheduled a public meeting to consider proposed revisions to the El Dorado County Veterans Monument Criteria For Military Honoraria on June 12th, 2024 from 10:00 AM-11:30 AM at the Veterans Memorial Building East Room, 130 Placerville Drive, Placerville, CA 95667.

A motion to rescind the approval of the El Dorado County Veterans Monument Policy Draft from the March 14th, 2024 VAC meeting was made by Commissioner Welch; seconded by Commissioner Reynolds.

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

Recused: 1 - Commissioner Wolfe

F. EX-OFFICIO REPORT - RECEIVE AND FILE (Brown)

- 24-0951** Veterans Service Officer Brown reported the Veteran Services Office is fully staffed and the office has been referring clients to The Office of Housing and Urban Development Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) and Victory Village for housing assistance. Additionally, the Veteran Services staff is referring clients to El Dorado Veteran Resources (EDVR) and VA Vet Center for additional services. Brown also reported the office has posted over \$700K for the Cal-Vet January 2024 - June 2024 audit. The office has been busy with 429 incoming phone calls, 64 scheduled appointments, and 187 Walk-In visitors for the month April. Brown spoke about VoterVoice, specifically related to SB 1124 and AB 46. He let the commission know VoterVoice can play a crucial role in empowering veterans to make their voices heard. Lastly, Brown mentioned Tisha Holy, Veterans Service Representative II, is still going to South Lake Tahoe twice per month.

Attachments: [Veterans Services Ex-officio Report May 2024](#)

G. COMMITTEE REPORTS - RECEIVE AND FILE

- TOT (Transient Occupancy Tax) (Reynolds) - Reynolds let the commission know the 2024 VA TOT grant is open until May 16th. Commissioner Smith asked a question about the applicants for the VA TOT grants, but Reynolds said they would not know anything about the applicants until after the 16th. Reynolds is interested in scheduling a meeting with HHS and Donna to go over the budget for the Office Assistant (OA) position in the Veteran Services Office. There was some confusion about the cost of the OA position, and Timalynn Jaynes, Assistant Director of Human Services, let him know the cost HHS and the VA TOT would need in order to fund the position. Lastly, Reynolds reported an issue with Folsom Lake College not spending all of their funds due to COVID and how it reflects on the VA TOT budget because the funds were returned.
- RULES (Welch) - Commissioner Welch stated there is nothing to report about Rules at this time.
- HOUSING (Welch) - Welch let the commission know there is no movement in El Dorado County (EDC) to approve a Tiny Home community. EDC has approved additions to current homes. There might be some acres donated in District IV off HWY 50 to possibly be used for housing veterans.
- LEGISLATIVE (Smith) - Commissioner Smith stated there is nothing to report about Legislative at this time.
- TRANSPORTATION (Thompson) - Whalen reported that the Native Daughters of the Revolution might be helping to fund bus passes. The cost for bus passes is around \$2400. Military Family Support Group (MFSG) community can help with transportation. There was talk about researching different forms of transportation. There is an issue with funds for transportation, insurance, and background checks on drivers. Potentially, riders could sign a Release of Liability form so there would be no legal responsibility.
- BUDGET (Reynolds/Mullens-Becker) - Commissioner Reynolds stated there is nothing to report on the Budget at this time.
- EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT (Mullens-Becker) - Commissioner Mullens-Becker was not available to provide a report.
- OUTREACH (Reynolds) - Reynolds reported he is posting as much as he can on the Veterans Affairs Commission Facebook page. He has requested that all documents or photos be sent to him as a JPEG; that way it can be uploaded to the site. Commissioner Welch told Reynolds he had a program he was giving to him that would help him convert files to JPEG.

H. COMMUNICATIONS' REPORTS - RECEIVE AND FILE

- VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING – VETERANS HOUSE COUNCIL (Reynolds) - Reynolds reported a couple of meetings had taken place for the Veterans Memorial Building (VMB). The first meeting was with Seth, Mac, Chuck and himself over what should be done with the building. The second meeting was with Anita, a contractor, and Reynolds about redoing the water pipes and lowering the ceiling. There was additional talk about adding dimmers to the lights, removing duct work, fixing or rebuilding the bar, and new blinds for the East Room. The painting of the building was approved by EDC; the VMB has a budget of \$50K to use.
- AMERICAN LEGION SERVICE OFFICER (Zelinsky) - Zelinsky reported on a few different veterans he has been able to help over the last month. One of the veterans, with Zelinsky's help, has turned their life around. This veteran is now working with horses and has offers to work in a Folsom Marine branch. Zelinsky also mentioned Bonnie Steward, Senior Office Assistant at Veterans Service Office, helping Zelinsky with a homeless veteran. She has been contacting Victory Village in Jackson to help veterans with housing. Lastly, Zelinsky reported that District Church was working with Team Rubicon with providing portable showers.
- EDC VETERANS ALLIANCE (Wolfe) - Commissioner Wolfe let the commission know EDC Veterans Alliance is busy with prep for the Memorial Day event. They are still looking for a guest speaker for the event. The Memorial Day event will start at 11 AM.
- VA VET CENTER/MILITARY FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP/EL DORADO VETERAN RESOURCES (EDVR) (Whalen) - Whalen let the commission know that a counselor is still coming up on a weekly basis to the VMB. The Veteran Services Office has referred clients to the VA Vet Center. The VA Vet Center has a few open positions to be filled. They will also be hosting a BBQ on May 17th at the VA Vet Center in Citrus Heights. Event is for the VA Vet Center clients and the clients' family and friends.
- REGIONAL VETERAN EVENTS - Victory Village in Auburn is having a Sunset Dinner event on the weekend of May 17th. Victory Village in Jackson will be at a community event that same weekend for veterans. EDVR will start giving away resources on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month through the summer. On May 28th there is a health fair at Nations Finest at Mather. EDVR is hosting a "Come and Get It" to clean out storage on June 1st and 2nd. Donations are welcomed for items, and items are free for veterans. VA Mobil Vet Center will be at the fair with Only Kindness.

I. GOOD OF THE ORDER (COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS)

Commissioner Welch mentioned going to a meeting for the Food Bank of El Dorado County, which is having a problem with diminishing food supplies. Families are taking additional foods which is causing a shortage for other families in need. Only people who are physically there can take food supplies. If the person there is taking food supplies for neighbors, additional paperwork is needed stating that the additional food is going to the neighbor. Welch also mentioned that the Food Bank got the permit and is building an emergency support center across the street from where they currently are. The center will have a kitchen and supplies for families that are evacuated from their homes.

J. 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.

No public comment.

NEXT MEETING LOCATION, DATE & TIME

June 13, 2024 at 12:00 PM

330 Fair Lane, Bldg A, BOS Chamber

Placerville, CA 95667

ADJOURNMENT - 12:51 PM