



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 - 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, December 12, 2024

12:00 PM

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

**330 Fair Lane, Building A
BOS Chamber
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.

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

ROLL CALL

- Present:** 6 - Alternate Mullens, Chair Reynolds, Commissioner Norton, Alternate Thompson, Alternate Fischer and Vice Chair Millham
- Absent:** 4 - Vice Chair Smith, Commissioner Welch, Commissioner Wolfe and Alternate Culver

Commissioner Millham attended the December 12, 2024 Veteran Affairs Commission (VAC) meeting via zoom.

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

- 1. **24-2124** Commission to review and approve mileage reimbursement for Veteran Affairs Commissioners for the month of November 2024.

Attachments: [November 2024 MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT](#)

- 2. **24-2125** Commission to review and approve Veteran Affairs Commission November 14, 2024 meeting minutes.

Attachments: [Draft Minutes Veteran Affairs Commission 11-14-24](#)

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

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

Yes: 4 - Chair Reynolds, Commissioner Norton, Alternate Thompson and Alternate Fischer

Absent: 4 - Vice Chair Smith, Commissioner Welch, Commissioner Wolfe and Alternate Culver

EX-OFFICIO REPORT - RECEIVE AND FILE (Brown)

25-0033

Veterans Service Officer (VSO) Brown reported that the Veteran Services Office is still in the hiring process for the new Office Assistant position and would be conducting more interviews soon. Next, Brown reported that he and Veterans Service Representative (VSR) Christopher Diggins would be attending the California Association of County Veteran Service Officers (CACVSO) Winter Training Conference from February 23 to February 28. Next, Brown reported that California Assembly Member James Ramos has reintroduced legislation, AB53, that would exempt military retirements and Survivors Benefit Plan (SBP) from state taxes. Next, Brown reported that for the month of November, the Veteran Services Office received 326 incoming phone calls, 91 scheduled appointments, and 190 walk-in visitors. Lastly, Brown reported that VSR II Tisha Holy has continued to provide services to South Lake Tahoe veterans via phone appointments.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS - RECEIVE AND FILE

- TOT (Transient Occupancy Tax) (Reynolds) - Commissioner Reynolds reported the next TOT meeting would be in March 2025.
- RULES (Welch) - Commissioner Welch was not available to provide a report on Rules.
- HOUSING (Welch) - Zelinsky reported that a few veterans are in need of housing in South Lake Tahoe. Zelinsky has been working with the Tahoe Coalition for the Homeless and Only Kindness to help provide housing.
- LEGISLATIVE (Smith) - Commissioner Smith was not available to provide a report on Legislative.
- TRANSPORTATION (Thompson) - Zelinsky reported that El Dorado Veteran Resources (EDVR), with help from Tim Page, was providing transportation for veterans to Mather. Zelinsky mentioned that he has assisted a few veterans with transportation as well.
- BUDGET (Reynolds/Mullens-Becker) - Commissioners Reynolds and Mullens-Becker stated there was nothing new to report on Budget.
- EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT (Mullens-Becker) - Commissioner Mullens-Becker reported that she went to the El Dorado County Recorder Clerk's Office to obtain a list of veteran-owned businesses. The Recorder Clerk's Office did not have a list of businesses owned by veterans but could inform Mullens-Becker of any new businesses owned by veterans. The Recorder Clerk's Office referred her to the County Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office, but there was some concern about whether this information was publicly available. Mullens-Becker was given an email address to propose her concerns and request, which she sent to get guidance on how to obtain this information.
- OUTREACH (Reynolds) - Commissioner Reynolds stated there was nothing new to report on Outreach.

COMMUNICATIONS' REPORTS - RECEIVE AND FILE

- VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING – VETERANS HOUSE COUNCIL (Reynolds) - Commissioner Reynolds reported that the Veterans Memorial Building (VMB) House Council met on December 5. The House Council reviewed the list of veteran organizations currently using the VMB and updated the schedule of events.
- AMERICAN LEGION SERVICE OFFICER (Zelinsky) - Zelinsky reported that he has been working with a veteran who was in need of health care and housing. One of the programs Zelinsky utilizes for veterans is Grant Per Diem, which provides funding to community agencies offering services to veterans experiencing homelessness. Zelinsky has been working with Victory Village, Only Kindness, and Christ Like Services to help veterans with different services. Zelinsky is also working with Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), which creates opportunities like covering the first and last month's rent for struggling veterans. Next, Zelinsky reported that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development - Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program has a number of home vouchers for homeless veterans, though there is a greater demand for the vouchers than there are vouchers available. Lastly, Zelinsky reported that the State of California Veteran Homes provides housing for veterans with different discharges from the military.
 - Diane Muirhead, Treasurer for the Veterans Memorial Building House Council, discussed how it takes a village to help a veteran and his family. Muirhead reported that EDVR was contacted by a veterans family seeking help to catch up on various bills. EDVR reached out to different veteran organizations to assist this family in need. Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) 2680, VFW 10165, Military Family Support Group (MFSG), the American Legion, and the Marine Corps League were able to help the family. Muirhead reported that Toys for Tots was able to donate toys to the family for Christmas. Lastly, Muirhead reported that HUD-VASH was working with a veteran who had cancer and passed away early in December. Muirhead reported that the veteran's children were taken in by a family member, and that Only Kindness, the American Legion, and MFSG were able to donate gift cards to help with purchasing gifts for Christmas.
- EDC VETERANS ALLIANCE (Wolfe) - Commissioner Wolfe was not available to provide a report on EDC Veterans Alliance.
- VA VET CENTER/MILITARY FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP/EL DORADO VETERAN RESOURCES (Whalen) - Whalen reported that MFSG had 9 electric wheelchairs and scooters available for veterans in need. A hospital bed was donated to a veteran's widow in Garden Valley. Whalen reported that MFSG has been busy helping to veterans and their families and receiving items as donations.
- REGIONAL VETERAN EVENTS - Whalen reported there was nothing new to report on Regional Veteran Events.

Public Comment: T. Millham, C. Whitaker

GOOD OF THE ORDER (COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS)

Commissioner Norton reported that Post 795 in South Lake Tahoe has a professional pool table available to anyone interested. The pool table is free and the interested party would need to go to South Lake Tahoe to pick it up.

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.

NEXT MEETING LOCATION, DATE & TIME

January 9, 2025 at 12:00 PM

330 Fair Lane, Building A

BOS Chamber

Placerville, CA 95667

ADJOURNMENT - 12:34 PM