

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

The Regular Quarterly Meeting of the Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs Meeting
October 6, 2021 beginning at 10:00 a.m.
Iowa Gold Star Military Museum
7105 – NW 70th Avenue, Camp Dodge
Johnston, IA 50313-1824

Present: Elizabeth Ledvina, Chair
Orene Cressler
Steve Hyde
Kenny Lloyd
Darlene McMartin
George Mosby
Greg Paulline
Carol Whitmore

Absent: Mary Van Horn
Gary Wattnem

Staff: Steve Lukan, Executive Director, IDVA
Mari Mielke, IDVA – Recording Secretary
Matt Peterson, IVH Commandant
Karl Lettow, IDVA Public Information Officer

Guests/ Presenters:	Brenda Safranski, Senator Ernst' Office	Julie Simon, IA Senate Demo. Caucus
	Alyssa Flood, Bombshell Patriots	Nichol Hoffman, Bombshell Patriots
	Jim Peterson, American Legion	Tom Dorsey, American Legion
	Rich Lennon, VFW	Lyle Peterson, Friends of Veterans
	Bill Churchill, Friends of Veterans	Bruce Beeston, VVA
	Brett McLain, Story County VA	Dan Kuester, VACIHCS
	Bruce Voigt, VARO	Kristi Catrenich, VARO
	Mike Mortensen, IACCVSO	Pat Sweeney, Polk County VA
	Wayne Marek	

NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE WHEN DATED AND SIGNED BY THE MEETING CHAIR

APPROVED: Elizabeth Ledvina **Date:** ~~1-5-22~~
Elizabeth Ledvina, Chair, Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs 1-5-22

Call to Order:

Chairperson Ledvina called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence:

Chairperson Ledvina led the Pledge of Allegiance and followed with a moment of silence for our departed veterans, POWs and those missing in action and those on active duty at this time.

Roll Call:

Recording secretary took roll call. Commissioners Van Horn and Wattnem were absent.

Welcome/Introductions of Guests:

Guests were asked to introduce themselves.

Presentations:

Bill Churchill made a presentation regarding a Veterans Project Assistance Project request for \$15,000 for trails, benches and signage for the Friends of Veterans Memorial Park in Davenport, Iowa.

VA Regional Office Update

Bruce Voigt has returned as the VA Regional office and gave an update.

VA Medical Center – Iowa City - Update

No update from the VA Iowa City Medical Center

VA Medical Center – Des Moines – Update

Dan Kuester the new Public Affairs Officer at the Des Moines VA Medical Center gave the Commission an update.

Veterans Home Update

New Commandant Matt Peterson introduced himself to the Commission and gave a brief description of his background. He is excited to join the IVH and meeting all the patients and staff. Discussion continued with ongoing projects at IVH

Camp Dodge Office Update

Steve Lukan gave an update of the Camp Dodge Office on license plate orders, which contributes to the License Plate Fund and the Home Ownership Program is a \$5,000 grant for first time home buyers. The Cemetery has had a lot of volunteers helping with the fall/winter preparations of the grounds. The Trust Fund applications have grown to almost 60 applications a month, with the new Administrative Rule changes.

Approval of Commission Minutes:

Commissioner McMartin made a motion to approve the minutes of the Trust Fund conference call of July 1, 2021 and was seconded by Commissioner Cressler. Motion carried; approved unanimously.

Commissioner Lloyd made a motion to approve the quarterly Commission meeting minutes of July 7, 2021 and was seconded by Commissioner Hyde. Motion carried; approved unanimously.

Commissioner Whitmore made a motion to approve the minutes of the Trust Fund conference call of August 5, 2021 and was seconded by Commissioner McMartin. Motion carried; approved unanimously.

Commissioner Lloyd made a motion to approve the minutes of the Trust Fund conference call of September 2, 2021 and was seconded by Commissioner Hyde. Motion carried; approved unanimously.

Old Business

Commissioner Hyde gave an update on the License Plate Fund project donation of \$10,000 to the Bombshell Patriots Conference that took place last month. The conference went over very well and considering to make an annual event.

New Business

After discussion of the Veterans Project Assistance request of \$15,000 for the Friends of Veterans Memorial Park, Commissioner Hyde made a motion to approve the \$15,000 request for educational purposes including: signage along the pathway of the Park and an interactive Kiosk to help educate the public about veterans along the trails and pathways throughout the memorial park. Commissioner Paulline seconded the motion; motion carried; approved unanimously.

Approved dates for 2022 Commission Meetings

2022 Commission meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, January 5, Wednesday, April 6th, Wednesday July 6th and Wednesday, October 5th. All beginning at 10:00 a.m. Locations to be determined.

Public Comment

None

Next Commission meeting

Next Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 5th, 2022 at Camp Dodge Gold Star Military Museum beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.