

# Board on Veterans Affairs

## Meeting Minutes – June 20, 2024 at 1:30pm

In-Person at Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs with a Virtual Option

### **Council Members Present:**

Pat Beggs	District 1
William Schrum	District 2
Christopher Hanson, <i>Vice Chair</i>	District 3
Tonnetta Carter	District 4
Jason Maloney, <i>Chair</i>	District 7
Chris Cornelius	District 8
Robert Hesselbein	Member at Large

### **Absent:**

Vern Larson, <i>Secretary</i>	District 5
Mark Mathwig	District 6

### **Others Present (not inclusive):**

Al Labelle – DAV  
Todd Milewski – Wisconsin State Journal  
Larry Hill – DAV/COVP Chair  
Comm. Ben Hobbs  
Rick (Last name unknown)  
Crystal Potts – UW  
Jason King – UW  
Cindy Torstveit – UW  
Peter Schleins – UW  
William Hauch – SUU  
Alan Hembel – Sons of Union Veterans  
Andy (Last name unknown)

### **WDVA Staff Present:**

Joseph Hoey, Asst. Deputy Secretary  
Dawn LaFond, Executive Assistant  
Mindy Allen, OLC  
Kevin Hampton, Museum Curator  
Larry Graves, WDVA Staff  
Mackenzie Hess – WVM

Vice Chair Jason Maloney called the meeting to Order at 1:30pm. Roll call was taken, 7 members in attendance, a quorum was present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Introduction of other in-person attendees was given:

- WDVA Staff: Joey Hoey and Dawn LaFond
- Invited Guests: Representing UW: Crystal Potts, Cindy Torstveit, Jason King and Peter Schleins
- Last meeting for District 2 Board Member, William Schrum

Minutes from March 14, 2024 were reviewed:

- Correction to minutes:

- Chris Cornelius was in attendance and attended part of the meeting; minutes have been updated to reflect same.
- MOTION: Bob Hesselbein made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Bill Schrum; minutes were unanimously approved.

Assistant Deputy Secretary Joseph Hoey provided a legislative update to the Board:

- Master Plan Study, which is scheduled to be completed January 1, 2025.
  - ACTION: Contractor will be contacting VSOs in the future as part of the Request for Proposal process.
- WDVA website
  - ACTION: Teams call will be scheduled for COVP and BOVA members to conduct feedback around the fundamentals and infrastructure of the site to best serve veterans and their advocates who will be using the website.
- Preliminary budget proposal
- Museum building proposal

UW Camp Randall Presentation

- Members of the Camp Randall team provided a PowerPoint presentation identifying the proposed plan.
- BOVA's limited authority for changes to Camp Randall Memorial was suspended by the legislature for the purposes of this project.
  - ACTION: Comments, questions or concerns should be sent directly to Joey Hoey who will forward to Crystal Potts.

Larry Hill provided the COVP Chair Report.

Board Member District Reports provided by

- Patt Beggs – District 1
- Bill Schrum – District 2
- Chris Hanson – District 3
- Tonnetta Carter – District 4
- Jason Maloney – District 7
- Bob Hesselbein – Member at Large

Public Comments:

- Alan Hembel, Commander Ben Hobbins, and John Decker commented on their ancestors and others who trained and passed through Camp Randall throughout the years.

- Al Labelle indicated that the Camp Randall presentation lacked historical context and he offered additional background.

Future agenda items:

- Soldier's Homes
- Camp Randall signage

Next Meetings:

- September 19, 2024: TBD
- December 19, 2024: TBD

Motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by Chris Cornelius and Pat Beggs, second by Bob Hesselbein and carried on a voice vote to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 2:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Maloney, Vice Chair