

# Board on Veterans Affairs

Meeting Minutes – October 12, 2023, 1:00pm

In-Person at Wisconsin Veterans Museum with a Virtual Option

## Council Members Present:

Pat Beggs	District 1
William Schrum	District 2
Christopher Hanson	District 3
Mark Mathwig	District 6
Jason Maloney	District 7
Chris Cornelius	District 8

## Absent:

Tonnetta Carter	District 4
Vern Larson	District 5
Robert Hesselbein	Member at Large

## Others Present (not inclusive):

Al Labelle – DAV  
Jordan Tilleson – VFW  
Fernando Rodriguez – AGIF WI  
Scott Poole – Office of Rep Snyder  
Leah Peterson – Office of Sen Ballweg  
Joe Rasmussen – UW  
Mike Worzalla

## WDVA Staff Present:

Joseph Hoey, Asst. Deputy Secretary  
Dawn LaFond, Executive Assistant  
Shannon Miller, Public Affairs  
Mindy Allen, OLC  
Kevin Hampton, Museum  
Amy Millard, Deputy Administrator

Chair Jason Maloney called the meeting to Order at 1:00pm. Roll call was taken, 6 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, Dawn LaFond, Shannon Miller and Amy Millard
- Other attendees: Scott Poole, Al Labelle and Fernando Rodriguez

Minutes from June 15, 2023 were reviewed:

- MOTION: Pat Beggs made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Mark Mathwig; minutes were unanimously approved.

Assistant Deputy Secretary Joseph Hoey and Jason Maloney provided an overview and update on the Camp Randall Memorial Utility Project:

- UW Madison is planning utility work which will impact the NE edge of the Memorial grounds.

- UW staff asked for suggestions from WDVA and the Board on how to restore the area from the arch to the campus side of the building.
- Jason Maloney toured the area in June and indicates these are normal upgrades mainly involving the right-of-way of Randall Avenue that could result in restoring the historical look of when the arch was built.
- WDVA would like the Board to pass a resolution in support of this utility reconstruction project.
- MOTION: Pat Beggs made a motion to support and approve the project, seconded by William Schrum; unanimous approval by the Board.

Assistant Deputy Secretary Hoey provided an agency update to the Board:

- Passed along Secretary-designee Bond's thanks and appreciation for their flexibility in relation to change of meeting date and location from September 21, 2023 (King Veterans Home) to October 12, 2023 (Wisconsin Veterans Museum).
- Tour of King Veterans Home Moses Hall will be rescheduled to Spring 2024.

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

- Bills currently moving through Legislature which will change the law eliminating the need for those applying for CVSO positions to take the Civil Service Exam, allow spouses of veterans to be admitted to nursing homes if their spouse is not already a member and alter the make-up of the COVP to remove inactive groups and add three reps from student organizations.
- Administrative Rule VA 13 (Permanent Rule) relating to the Veterans Housing and Recovery Program (VHRP).
  - MOTION: Bill Schrum moved to approve the rule change as presented and that comments are to be sent to WDVA, seconded by Chris Cornelius; unanimously approved.
- Master Plan Study update.

Administrative Update provided by Dawn LaFond:

- Records training and ethics training are due by 11.17.2023.
  - There is an online records training that will satisfy requirements and is available October 25 at 9am and October 26 at noon.
    - ACTION: Dawn LaFond to send email with course training information.
- There is a free screening of Dear Sirs at the Sun Prairie Marcu Palace Cinema located at 2830 Hopeker Road at 6:00pm on Thursday, October 12, 2023.

Jason Maloney provided the COVP Chair Report on behalf of Nellie DeBaker:

Board Member District Reports provided by

- Patt Beggs – District 1
- William Schrum – District 2
- Chris Hanson – District 3
- Mark Mathwig – District 6
- Jason Maloney – District 7
- Chris Cornelius – District 8

Future agenda items:

- WDVA Grant program requirements.
- Update on upcoming WDVA website upgrades.
- Presentation by Melissa Doud on problems faced by veterans in tribal nations in Wisconsin and TVSO roles might differ from CVSO roles.
- WDVA Outreach Initiatives.
- Update on roles and responsibilities in relation to high school students and information on opportunities to attend US Military Academies.

Next Meetings:

- December 14: Tentatively at WDVA Central Office or the Wisconsin Veterans Museum in Madison
- March 14, 2024: TBD

Motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by Bill, seconded by Chris and carried on a voice vote to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Maloney, Chair