



## **Kent County Veterans Services**

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DRAFT minutes 01-13-22

Committee Present: Mary Johnson, Melvin Bauman, Jill Wolfe, Michael Blundell, Trish Torres, John Baxter, Chris Kamps, Reggie Howard

Committee Absent:

Staff Present: Martha Burkett, Andrew Lapres, Rachel Wustman

Guests: No Guests

1. Meeting called to Order/Introductions –
  - a. The meeting was called to order by Veterans Services Committee Chair Mary Johnson at 8:30am.
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Committee member Melvin Bauman led those in attendance to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Approval of the Minutes from Previous Month
  - a. Committee Chair Mary Johnson motioned to accept the previous meeting's minutes. Melvin Bauman voted to approve. Trish Torres seconded. All present voted in favor.
4. Success Stories
  - a. KCVS VSO Andrew Lapres shared that after working with one of his clients for over a year and a half, the client was awarded 100% service connection. The \$44,000 he received in back pay kept him from having to file bankruptcy.
5. Manager's Report
  - a. KCVS VSO Andrew Lapres shared the monthly impact report. Records requests: 4. Fully developed claims: 24. County IDs 0. Face-to-face contact: 0. Claims in development 89. Claims awarded: 14. SSR: 1. Burials: 0. Phone Contacts: 2734. Meijer Food Vouchers: \$1150.
  - b. KCVS Manager Martha Burkett shared that KCVS grants are being worked on, and the fiscal committee approved the MVAA grants.
  - c. KCVS Manager Martha Burkett shared that the grant for housecleaning will require committee voting to select the 14 individuals for cleaning.
  - d. KCVS Manager Martha Burkett shared an update on the millage subcommittee meeting. The renewal was supposed to be brought up in August 2021, but now will be included as a new initiative. As such, the language of the millage can be changed as needed.

- e. KCVS Manager Martha Burkett shared the budget report, stating that KCVS was slightly over in General Administration for 2021, but the rest looked good.
6. Old Business
    - a. NO OLD BUSINESS
  7. New Business
    - a. Committee Chair Mary Johnson motioned to open nominations for Committee Officers for 2022.
    - b. Melvin Bauman nominated Mary Johnson as Committee Chair. John Baxter seconded.
    - c. Melvin Bauman nominated Mike Blundell as Secretary.
    - d. Trish Torres nominated Jill Wolfe as Vice Chair.
    - e. Reggie Howard seconded all nominations. All voted in favor.
    - f. Committee Chair Mary Johnson introduced the two new committee members, Chris Kamps and Reggie Howard. The rest of the committee introduced themselves to the new committee members.
    - g. Committee Chair Mary Johnson opened discussion for committee meeting dates. The decision was made to move the meeting start time to 9 am, but to keep the day as the second Thursday of the month.
  8. New Activities
    - a. KCVS staff Rachel Wustman shared that she and Theresa Ergang have been continuing to visit various nursing homes to spread the word about KCVS.
  9. Public Comment
    - a. Paul Ryan introduced himself to the new committee members, and shared that he is still looking for volunteer drivers for the Phoenix Mobility Rising rideshare for veterans.
  10. Adjournment –Veterans Services Committee Chair Mary Johnson moved adjourned the meeting at 9:22 am.