

Veterans Empowerment Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 21 2023, 2023 at 1p.m.

Meeting Recording: [https://zoom.us/j/94750938926?](https://zoom.us/j/94750938926?pwd=SW9rWDIBNGlqOFpnU01sbXRWVWhHQT09)
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Call to Order/Welcome

- The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hanley at 1:00pm

Roll Call

- **Members Present:** Shawn Hanley, Mike Mizell, Dr. Samantha Brown-Parks, Rick White, Patricia Lewis, Anthony Merritt, Stephen Leake, Michael Moore (Quorum met) Rev Eldson McGhee joined at 1:27pm
- **Members Absent:** Brad Mitchell
- **Staff Present:** Ann Isaac, Stan Wilson

Invocation by Michael Moore

Pledge of Allegiance by Stephen Leake

Approval of December 21, 2023 Meeting Agenda

- Sam Brown-Parks made a motion to approve. Michael Moore 2nd.

Ratification of September and October 2023 Meeting Minutes

- S Brown-Parks made a motion to approve. Rick White 2nd.

Annual Election of the Officers

- Motion to nominate Dr. Brown-Parks as Chairman was made by COL Rick White, Mike Mizell 2nd. Unanimously passed
- Motion to nominate Patricia Lewis as Vice Chairman was made by Chairman Hanley, Stephen Leake 2nd. Unanimously passed
- Motion to delay election of Secretary until next meeting was made by Anthony Merritt, Rick White 2nd. Unanimously passed

Old Business

- Review of Committee Priorities:
- It was decided in past meetings to continue focus on the listed top three priorities with more stringent requirements for suicide prevention programs to require recipients to be tied to a long-term care plan.
- Our Grant writers should again be engaged in the applications for the SSGT Fox program. The process should be restarted in February 2024.

- An effort must be made to coordinate publicizing availability of resources through:
 - County Website
 - Local organizations
 - Spread to other counties through the State program (GDVS, etc)
 - A quarterly communication should be drafted and distributed in the new year to the community through Fulton County External Affairs

New Business

An action/work plan will be laid out to outline the upcoming tasks as well as plan for an in-person meeting with the board members.

Announcements

- Mr. Mike Mizell announced that this will be his last VEC meeting. He will be submitting his resignation from the board to his commissioner in order to focus his time on his personal veteran organizations. The Board wished him well and will await the appointment of his replacement.

Meeting Adjourned by Dr. Brown-Parks 2:04pm