



**MINUTES OF THE APRIL MEETING OF THE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION
April 14, 2021 at 11:00AM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Hays called the meeting to order at 10:59 a.m. at 627 Edwin C. Moses Boulevard, 4th Floor, East Medical Plaza, Dayton, Ohio 45417.

II. ROLL CALL

Administrative Officer Bryan Suddith took the roll call.

<u>Commissioners*</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Excused</u>
Jerry Hays, President	X	
Federico Rojas, Jr., Vice President	X*	Via Zoom
William Fried, Secretary	X	
Jim Dare, Commissioner	X	

Staff members present: Kim Frisco, Executive Director, Bryan Suddith, Administrative Officer and Steven Strain, Legal Counsel.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Hays led the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for a moment of silence.

IV. APPROVAL OF MARCH MEETING MINUTES

1. March 10 Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Fried moved and Commissioner Dare seconded a motion to approve the March 10 minutes as recorded and presented. All commissioners vote Aye.

<u>Commissioners</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Jerry Hays, President	X		
Federico Rojas, Jr., Vice President	X		
William Fried, Secretary	X		
Jim Dare, Commissioner	X		

President Hays declared the motion approved as presented.

2. March 17 Special Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Fried moved and Commissioner Dare seconded a motion to approve the March 17 minutes as recorded and presented. All commissioners vote Aye.

<u>Commissioners</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Jerry Hays, President	X		
Federico Rojas, Jr., Vice President	X		
William Fried, Secretary	X		
Jim Dare, Commissioner	X		

President Hays declared the motion approved as presented.

3. March 22 Special Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Fried moved and Commissioner Dare seconded a motion to approve the March 22 minutes as recorded and presented. All commissioners vote Aye.

<u>Commissioners</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Jerry Hays, President	X		
Federico Rojas, Jr., Vice President	X		
William Fried, Secretary	X		
Jim Dare, Commissioner	X		

President Hays declared the motion approved as presented.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

VI. SCHEDULED PRESENTATIONS

1. Patrick Allen of the Veterans History Project presented to the commission. Mr. Allen described the project as collecting stories, via in-person and recorded interviews, from Veterans. These stories once collected will be archived in the Library of Congress. He is looking for assistance in locating and meeting WWII and Korean War Veterans so he can record stories about their life and service. He brought along Dick Robinson, Army Veteran who served in Vietnam, to share his experience of recording this stories with Mr. Allen and the Veterans History Project.

Mr. Allen concluded his presentation with information on how to contact him to schedule an interview with any Veteran interested in recording their stories. Commissioner Fried invited Mr. Allen to the next monthly meeting of VVA to present.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Soldiers and Sailors Financial Assistance for the period of March 1 – March 31, 2021

Commissioner Fried moved and Commissioner Dare seconded a motion to approve the March Financial report as recorded and presented. No discussion was made. All commissioners vote Aye.

<u>Commissioners</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Jerry Hays, President	X		
Federico Rojas, Jr., Vice President	X		
William Fried, Secretary	X		
Jim Dare, Commissioner	X		

President Hays declared the motion approved as presented.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Director Frisco presented an opportunity for the MCVSC to sponsor the annual Alzheimer’s Association Walk. This sponsorship gives awareness to a targeted population and offers the opportunity to have a table for information at the event. Ms. Frisco suggested sponsoring at the \$2,000 level.

Commission President Hays concurred and asked for a motion to approve this sponsorship expense. Commissioner Fried moved and Commissioner Dare seconded a motion to approve the \$2,000 expenditure for the October event. All commissioners vote Aye.

<u>Commissioners</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Jerry Hays, President	X		
Federico Rojas, Jr., Vice President	X		
William Fried, Secretary	X		
Jim Dare, Commissioner	X		

President Hays declared the motion approved as presented.

2. An updated on the new posting for the Veterans Court Mentor Coordinator Position. The job notice will be posted until April 22. The job listing has been sent to area posts and is available online at MCOHIO.org.

IX. MANAGEMENT REPORT

- a) Director Frisco
 1. Ms. Frisco formally introduced Bryan Suddith, Administration Officer to the commission. Bryan’s start date was April 5.
 2. 100% of staff has had at least their first Covid Vaccine with many having both vaccinations or the J&J one shot vaccination.
 3. Ms. Frisco reported that she will be attending the VSO training in Columbus from April 19 – April 23.

4. MCVSC will be assisting in the placement of special Purple Heart parking places at the County Administration building, the Reibold building and a spot at the MCVSC offices on Edwin C. Moses. We are working with the county now to determine a date for the installation of the signs provided by Jerry Ferrell as well as a ribbon cutting event to commemorate the new parking spots honoring Veterans awarded the Purple Heart.
5. Dan Semsel continues to lead the process of review and updating of Policies and Procedures.
6. Ms. Frisco reported that all annual employee performance evaluations have been completed and bonuses awarded to those meeting and exceeding expectations.

b) Administration Officer Bryan Suddith

1. The first outreach of 2021 will be on May 21 at Levitt Pavillion.

c) Legal Counsel, Steven Strain

1. For the month of March there were 7 intakes for legal services with 4 cases being opened by the office. There were 12 Veterans appearing at the Veterans Court Docket with Judge Adkins.
2. The initial Mentor Meeting and Training are set for April 16.

X. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

President Hays

- DAV Meeting 4/14/2021 and has resumed in-person meetings

Vice President Rojas

- VFW has resumed meeting in-person as well for May. Annual officer elections are coming.
- Mr. Rojas spoke about a possible outreach at the VA Covid Vaccination clinic. Staff affirmed they will follow up with this opportunity.

Secretary Bill Fried

- VVA meetings have also returned to in-person, next meeting is 4/15/2021 at 6:00 p.m.
- Commissioner Fried reiterated Montgomery County's leadership with the Legal Counsel position and how what we do will set the bar for best practice across the state VSC offices.

Commissioner Dare

- Commissioner Dare asked fellow commissioners to finalize Executive Director Frisco's annual performance evaluation and they committed to doing that after the public meeting's conclusion.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

Jerry Hays, President

James Dare, Commissioner

Federico Rojas, Jr., Vice President

William Fried, Secretary