

# Veterans Empowerment Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 19, 2024, 1pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95160595887?pwd=Z1FlSTR1aHhLNkZFdzclN0IreThOUT09>

Meeting ID: 951 6059 5887

Passcode: 744705

## Call to Order/Welcome

- The meeting was called to order by Chairman Brown-Parks at 1:05pm

## Roll Call

- **Members Present:** Dr. Samantha Brown-Parks, Patricia Lewis, Rev McGhee, John Walsh
- **Members Absent:** Anthony Merritt, Shawn Hanley, Rick White, Stephen Leake, Michael Moore
- **Staff Present:** Stanley Wilson and Ann Isaac (Community Development)

Invocation by Patricia Lewis

Pledge led by Rev. McGhee

## Approval of Meeting Agenda

- No quorum.

## Ratification of June 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes

- No quorum.

## Old Business

- Review of 2024 VEC Workplan
  - Workplan was updated. Secretary position still vacant.
  - FY2023-2023 VEC Annual Report
    - The report was well received, and feedback was provided for future improvements.
  - Collection of Data – Work with VA Group, CoC, and Georgia Department of Veteran Services.

## New Business

- FY2024 Veterans Services Funding Recommendations
  - Members reviewed which led to discussion around next steps for website development.
    - Concerns shared on the impact of programs on the street, suggesting the need to engage other organizations.
    - Request for VEC Member to provide listing of additional agencies that should be invited to apply for funding in the next round. Should funding be approved.
    - VEC Member expressed their interest in reviewing proposals.

- Website Development
  - Website development to include the following:
    - Section outlining Veterans services and connect it to Health and Human Services App.
    - Work to engage new agencies to understand their community engagement and identify gaps the commission can fill.
    - Members also discussed the potential for expanding the Pack Act.
- Fulton County Board of Commissioners Designating Fulton County, GA as a Purple Heart
  - Resolution proposed by Commissioner Arrington declaring Fulton County a Purple Heart County.
- Funding for Sons of Atlanta
  - Discussion on fund raising. Clarification provided that due to lack of staff and resources, the group cannot operate as a nonprofit organization.
  - Suggestions made to have another agency operate the nonprofit aspects.
  - Also discussed: a 501 (c) (3) which is similar to a 501 (c)(19) has the necessary skills and experience to manage a nonprofit organization.

## Announcements

- Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 21, 2024 at 1pm.
- VEC Members discussed attendance at the GA Arts & Health Policy Event.
  - The Chair advised that she could not attend, however, the Vice-Chair will be in attendance.

Meeting Adjourned 1:41pm.