

POST AGENDA MINUTES – RATIFIED

This document has been ratified or approved by the Fulton County Veterans Empowerment Commission, Inc. and is not binding on the County or any officer.

Call to Order/Welcome

- The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m.

Introductions

Taskforce Members & Staff

****A QUORUM WAS PRESENT****

- **Members Present:** Louis Coroso, Jim Garcia, Shawn Hanley, Patricia Lewis, Eldson McGhee, Anthony Merritt, Michael Mizell
- **Members Absent:** Earnest Allen
- **Staff Present:** Fran Calhoun (External Affairs), Jasmine Campbell (External Affairs), Joey Logan-Pugh (County Attorney's Office), Rosalynd Rawls (Clerk to the Commission's Office)

Taskforce Purpose Overview and Taskforce Organizational Structure Tasks

Fran Calhoun
Intergovernmental Affairs Division Manager

Fran Calhoun, Intergovernmental & Interagency Affairs Division Manager

- Reviewed resolution by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners that created the Veterans Empowerment Commission, Inc. with members, including three year term commitment.
- Veterans Empowerment Commission, Inc. serves as an advisory body to the Fulton County Board of Commissioners and can make recommendations.

Joey Logan-Pugh, Assistant County Attorney

- Prepared drafts of Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws for the Veterans Empowerment Commission, Inc. will be shared with the External Affairs department and members following the meeting.
- Next Steps to establish nonprofit status: File Articles of Incorporation with Secretary of State, post an official notice in County's legal organ announcing filing the Articles of Incorporation, then submit Form 1023 to IRS.
 - Confirmed Veterans Empowerment Commission, Inc. will be established as a nonprofit entity and only have one set of elected officers.

Preparation for Election of Officers – Discussion

- Shawn Hanley: Suggested one officer be a woman.
- Fran Calhoun:
 - Suggested members nominate officers tonight and vote at the next meeting.

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- Treasurer must work with County Finance department regarding policies and procedures for any funds collected or handled by the nonprofit, and reporting requirements.
- Jim Garcia asked members who would like to serve as an officer submit their names for nomination, responses below:
 - Eldson McGhee
 - Patricia Lewis
- Joey Logan-Pugh: Current draft bylaws state there are four officers elected for a one-year term: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Will work on adding officer descriptions to make roles clear for nominees before vote. A quorum will be eight people.
 - Fran Calhoun:
 - We must keep a rolling quorum in order to get work started since not all of the Fulton County Commissioners have made appointments yet. The quorum would then be a majority of the current Commission composition.
 - Reviewed remaining appointments needed in each District.
 - Rosalyn Rawls: Members should suggest other Fulton County veterans to serve on this Commission by sending the names and contact information to staff.
 - Fran Calhoun: Appointments are needed from the following districts: one from District 2 (Commissioner Ellis); two from District 3 (Commissioner Morris); two from District 4 (Commissioner Hall); one from District 6 (Commissioner Abdur-Rahman)
- Lou Coroso: Would like to see the bylaws including officer descriptions before taking a vote.

Establish Meeting Schedule – Discussion

- Joey Logan-Pugh: Suggested meeting schedule be determined tonight. Bylaws require at least one meeting quarterly.
- Eldson McGhee: Until structure is better, meetings should occur bi-weekly.
 - Michael Mizell agreed.
 - Jim Garcia: Members need to try to get remaining appointments filled within the next two weeks. Offered to contact Commissioner Lee Morris.
- Fran Calhoun:
 - Will send bi-weekly meeting date suggestions to members.
 - Each member should submit one name of a potential new member to County staff before the next meeting; will send contact information to members.

Preparation for Determining Annual Objectives – Discussion

- Topics of interest include: PTSD, suicide prevention, homelessness, career support, directory of service providers, connecting memorials across Georgia, and Veterans Benefits Assistance.
- Joey Logan-Pugh will look into potential financial support for the Veterans Empowerment Commission, Inc.

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- Fran Calhoun responded to question about budget support from the County by stating that she would confirm that this should be anticipated, and suggested creating a projected annual budget that might be needed to help reach objectives.

Next Steps

- Michael Mizell: Johns Creek memorial wall needs to get the word out, plans to send out pamphlets and signage is currently being worked on.
 - Fran Calhoun requested tri-fold be sent to her and she will about the appropriate manner to support generating awareness. All members are encouraged to send information on upcoming veterans' events to staff.
- Jim Garcia: Requested a list of member names including biographies.
 - Fran Calhoun: Once biographies are submitted by each person to Jasmine Campbell at jasmine.campbell@fultoncountyga.gov they will be shared with all members.

Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.