



BALTIMORE COUNTY COMMISSION ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Meeting Minutes – January 24, 2023

Date / Time

January 24, 2022 / 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Location

Baltimore County Public Library - Cockeysville Branch
9833 Greenside Dr, Cockeysville, MD 21030

This Meeting was Open to the Public

Call to Order / Roll Call / Quorum

1. Commissioners in attendance in room or via WebEx Conference Call:

- **In Person Attendance** - George White, Charles Jay, Edward Bauer, Danny Blount, Robert Ecbert, Derrick Little, Jerlena Rhodes-Cadell, Jeff Bonner, Shawntae Jacobs
- **Virtual Attendance**- Pete Kriscumas
- **Absent:** Michael Eagle, David Greer, Richard Chilton, Dennis Cash, James Hutson, Ed Schwartz

2. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes

- N/A

3. Commissioner Introductions- Commissioners formally introduced themselves.

- George White- Council District 2
- Charles Jay - At-Large Member
- Edward Bauer- Council District 3
- Danny Blount - Council District 4
- Robert Ecbert- Council District 5
- Derrick Little - UMBC/TU or CCBC Representative
- Jerlena Rhodes-Cadell - Department of Corrections Representative
- Jeff Bonner - At-Large Member
- Jay Jacobs - At-Large Member



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Old Business

1. N/A

New Business

1. Adoption of Bylaws

- Commission Chair solicited questions or feedback concerning Baltimore County Commission on Veterans' Affairs (BCVC) Bylaws draft- BCVC Commissioners did not have supplementary input.
- Commission Chair moved to vote on the adoption of the bylaws as written- motion Commissioner Charles provided the second- the motion was approved.
- Commissioners voted on bylaws adoption:
 - In Favor- Nine Commissioners
 - Opposed – None
- BCVC Chair tallied the vote and announced that the bylaws are accepted and will be submitted to the Baltimore County Office of Law for final approval.

2. Discussion of Commissioner Business Cards

- What information should BCVC include on the front and back of respective business cards.
- Recommendation to add veteran hotlines to the back of the Commissioner's Business card.
- County Executive's representee, Pete Kriscumas, recommends restricting the use of personal information (Phone number, email..etc.) on BCVC cards.
- The advantages and disadvantages of including personal information was discussed.
- It is agreed that the front of the cards should contain:
 - Name
 - Title
 - Respective District
 - Contact Information – Chair provided information sheet for commissioners review and approval. The sheet was reviewed/ updated by all in-person attendees.
 - Email should be standardized, e.g. First initial, last name (no space) "dot" bcvets@gmail.com.
 - The back of the card will include critical veteran hotlines numbers.
 - County Executive's representative will discuss the best point of contact for veteran emergencies with (CMO).
 - Draft business cards will be submitted to the BCVC for approval before sending to print.
 - District 6 and District 7 BCVC Representatives appointments are currently unfilled.



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3. Discussion of Baltimore County Veterans' Commission Website

- BCVC Chair shared the Anne Arundel County Veterans' Commission Website as an example of what's possible when developing BCVC's webpage.
 - BCVC Commissioners agree to use the AACVC website as an initial template.
 - BCVC elected Robert Ecbert as IT liaison to establish the BCVC website.
 - Any public facing pages and associated information will need approval from Baltimore County IT Administrator.
 - Headshots of all BCVC Commissioner's are needed for the webpage.

4. Discussion of Future Commission Activities

- Establishment of Monthly Meeting Schedule:
 - Consensus for monthly meeting cadence 4th Tuesday of the month reached.
 - Meeting Format - Hybrid
 - Meeting Location - Baltimore County Public Library until otherwise noted.
- Review of Planning Document:
 - Commissioner Charles Jay reviewed the BCVC Vision Document, discussed:
 - BCVC Public introduction by Co Executive- what would be the best event for this activity.
 - Initial BCVC efforts should focus on communication, outreach and marketing to make Baltimore County Veterans aware of the services available.
 - BCVC Chair requests that commissioners follow up with respective areas of expertise that will aid the BCVC mission.
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- Memorial Day Event

Agency Partners

- Presentation of U.S. Department of Labor Veterans' Programs provided by Ms. Stephanie Wiggins, Assistant Director for Maryland Veterans' Employment and Training Service:
 - **JVSG**- program provides federal funding via grants, to American Job Centers (AJCs) to facilitate the hiring of dedicated staff to provide individualized career and training-related services to veterans.
 - **TAP**- provides information, resources, and tools to service members and their loved ones to help prepare for the move from military to civilian life.
 - **HVRP**- an employment focused competitive grant program of the DOL-VETS, the only federal grant to focus exclusively on competitive employment for homeless veterans.



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- **USERRA**- The DOL-VETS aids those experiencing service-connected problems with their civilian employment and provides information about USERRA to employers. VETS also assists veterans who have questions regarding Veterans' Preference.
 - **HVMP**- the only federal-level veterans' employment award that recognizes a company or organization's commitment to veteran hiring, retention, and professional development.
- Ms. Wiggins stated that marketing and outreach are major issues – being inclusive with both is crucial to reach intended veteran audience.
 - Ms. Wiggins reviewed DOL Standdowns – Stand Downs (SD) are typically one- to three-day events providing supplies and services to homeless Veterans, such as food, shelter, clothing, health screenings and VA Social Security benefits counseling. Baltimore County can apply for the grant through the DOL, HVRP Program:
<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets/programs/StandDown>

5. Adjournment