



KENTUCKY VETERANS PROGRAM TRUST FUND

Minutes

30 September 2020

Chairperson Keith Jackson (KDVA) called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. This meeting was conducted via Zoom videoconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency restrictions prohibiting in person meetings.

Roll Call

- Chairperson Keith Jackson (KDVA) called the meeting to order.
- Dennis Shepherd called roll.
- Members Present:
 - Chairperson Keith Jackson (KDVA), Vice-Chairperson Dean Stoops (KDVA), COL Fred Bates (KYNG), Randy Fisher (American Legion), Carl Kaelin (VFW), David Rummmler (JECVO), Rick Eisert (Governor's Advisory Board), Dave Jarrett (DAV), SFC Terrance Noel (AMVETS) and Shon Adams (At-Large).
- Members Absent
 - Maj. Carla Raisler (At-Large).
- KDVA Additional Staff Present:
 - Dennis Shepherd, Whitney Allen, Nieta Wigginton, Stephanie Belt, Alvin Duncan, and Eileen Ward
- The majority of voting members were present to satisfy a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

- Approval of Minutes from previous meeting.
 - Board approved minutes from 15 April 2020 meeting as presented (motion made by Carl Kaelin and seconded by Dave Jarrett; motion for approval unanimously carried).

Approval of Financial Report

- Final FY20 report and Monthly Activity Reports for periods ending July 31, 2020 (FY21) and August 31, 2020 (FY21) and discussion of FY20 Financial Audit.
 - Board approved the Financial Report as presented (motion made by Dave Jarrett and seconded by COL Bates; motion for approval unanimously carried).
 - Board discussed both carrying at least a \$50,000 balance and a \$75,000 balance after grants made at this meeting. (Motion to keep a \$75,000 balance in the fund was made by Dave Jarret and seconded by Rick Eisert; the motion was approved unanimously).

Old Business

- **POW/MIA Chair Final Invoice:** On 25 October 2019, the Board voted via email to approve estimated costs associated with the construction of the POW/MIA Missing Man Chair to be located at the Capitol Rotunda. The board received an initial cost estimate of \$1,573.87 and approved up to \$1,700. In April 2020, KDVA received the final invoice for **\$2,511.99**. The cost increase was to custom make the platform so it was easily movable with casters underneath, included roped off dividers to prevent people from sitting in the chair, and include lighting to highlight the POW/MIA Flag. A new vote was requested to approve the cost overrun and pay this final invoice. On 24 April 2020, the motion to approve the additional expenditure was APPROVED 7 to 1 and the invoice paid. This issue is closed.
- **Team Depot:** On 13 March 2019, the Board voted to approve a grant of **\$2,500** to send CARE packages to deployed service members. KDVA sent follow up letters to Anthony Riley on 26 March 2020, 27 May 2020, 25 June 2020, and 31 August 2020. In a reply dated 7 July 2020, Mr., Riley indicated he plans to use the unexpended funds on another project. In a letter dated 31 August 2020, General Counsel Dennis Shepherd explained unexpended funds could only be use for the projects for which the grant was requested. Mr. Riley return \$682.02 on 11 September 2020. This issue is closed.
- **Cloverfork Citizens for Progress:** On 13 March 2019, the Board voted to approve a grant of **\$30,000** for construction of a veterans and Medal of Honor recipient memorial. Funds were held by KDVA until property ownership was established. On 22 April 2020, KDVA received a letter dated 15 April 2020 indicating the project was not yet completed due to COVID-19 and requested an extension to 31 December 2020 – (motion made by COL Bates; seconded by Dave Jarrett; motion for extension unanimously carried).
- **Free Cancer Screening For Men:** On 13 March 2019, the Board voted to approve a grant of **\$2,500** for free cancer screening for male veterans at the 2019 State Fair. KDVA sent follow up letters to Connie Sorrell on 13 March 2020 and to Don Lynam on 10 June 2020. No responses received. KDVA follow up letter was sent to Don Lynam on 14 September 2020. General Counsel Dennis Shepherd received a phone call update from Mr. Steve Henry on 29 September 2020 who plans on sending an update via email.
- **HBOT4KYVETS, Inc:** On 13 March 2019, the Board voted to approve a grant of **\$60,000** for Hyperbaric Oxygen Treatment (HBOT) for up to 5 Kentucky Veterans over two years based upon locations in Lexington and Louisville. On 6 January 2020, Eric Koleda, Director and Founder, informed KDVA of their letter to Attorney General Daniel Cameron regarding their fight with Norton Healthcare and Healogics, Inc for their failure to comply with GA18 House Bill 64, The Colonel Ronald D. Ray Traumatic Brain Injury and Treatment Act, signed into law by Governor Bevin on March 12, 2018 and effective July 14, 2018 (KRS 217.930 through 217.942). On 13 February 2020, Deputy Commissioner Stoops confirmed with the Attorney General's Office that they received the complaint and were investigating. On 19 February 2020, KDVA received an email from Jon Park, Governor's Office of Constituent Services that Mr. Koleda had notified them of the issue. Deputy Commissioner Stoops notified Mr. Park that Mr. Koleda was keeping us informed, but we were not actively involved in the issue. Just simply monitoring. On 20 April 2020, HBOT4KYVETS submitted receipts for \$300 their organization spent out of the \$60,000 the Trust Fund granted for HBOT in response to a March KDVA inquiry. On 11 May 2020, Eric Koleda sent a letter to Commissioner Jackson requesting KDVA assistance in supporting their position against

Norton Healthcare and Healogics, Inc. On 4 June 2020, Eric Koleda responded to Dennis Shepherd's follow-up inquiry about the funds and requested a 6 month extension. The request was put to a vote to the board via email on 6 June 2020, Final Vote 7 = No, 3 = Yes. The request was denied. See attached Roll Call Vote. On 18 June, 2020, KDVA notified Mr. Koleda and requested the remaining funds be returned to the trust fund. \$59,700 was returned to KDVA on 22 June 2020. This issue is closed.

- **Connected Nation:** On 12 Jun 2019, the Board approved a grant of **\$36,000** for job training of up to 20 veterans in the Ft. Campbell area. In a letter dated 9 April 2020, Chris Pedersen indicated the project would not be complete until as late as December 2020 and requested an extension to 31 December 2020 (motion made by Carl Kaelin and seconded it by Shon Adams; motion for extension unanimously carried).
- **Veterans Club:** On 18 September 2019, the board approved a grant of **\$10,000** to support equine therapy program for veterans. In response to a KDVA follow-up request for information dated 6 March 2020, Veterans Club replied on 18 May 2020 indicating the funds had not yet been used as it was programed to be used in the spring of 2020, but these events were put on hold due to COVID-19 pandemic, and requested extension to 31 December 2020 (motion made by David Rummler and seconded by COL Bates; motion for extension unanimously carried).
- **Eastern Kentucky University Veterans Program:** On 18 September 2019, the board approved a grant of **\$7,500** to support their Student Veteran emergency Fund program for veterans. In response to a KDVA follow-up request for information dated 6 March 2020, Veterans Club replied on 18 May 2020 indicating the funds had not yet been used as it was programed to be used in the spring of 2020, but these events were put on hold due to COVID-19 pandemic, but should complete their project this summer. On 13 September 2020, Barbara Kent, requested an extension to 31 December 2020 (motion made by Carl Kaelin and seconded by David Rummler; motion for extension unanimously carried).
- **Honor Flight Kentucky:** On 8 January 2020, the Board voted to approve a grant of **\$25,000** for a May 2020 mission. Funds were not used for the May 2020 mission due to COVID-19 pandemic. The organization incurred a non-refundable airline deposit of \$8,000, but returned **\$17,000** on 4 May 2020. This issue is closed.
- **Honor Flight Bluegrass:** On 8 January 2020, the Board voted to approve a grant of **\$15,000** for an 8 May 2020 B-17 flight in Louisville and **\$25,000** for a June 2020 Honor flight mission to Washington D.C. In a letter dated 6 March 2020, KDVA asked Jeff Tholke to return the checks due to COVID-19 pandemic postponement of these events and to call us about 30 days out once they have a firm date for using the funds. They agreed and funds were returned to KDVA on 6 May 2020. During phone call on 14 September 2020, between Dean Stoops and Jeff Tholke, Mr. Tholke indicated he was planning a makeup B-25 flight in Louisville on 3 October 2020 in lieu of the 8 May 2020 flight, but the June 2020 Honor Flight to Washington D.C. was cancelled entirely, and would not be able to use the \$25,000 grant. As a result, the **\$15,000** obligation to the Trust Fund remains until requested by HFB, but not later than 8 January 2021. The funds were disbursed on 24 September 2020 for the 3 October 2020 B-25 mission. KDVA will follow up NLT 8 January 2021 to ensure funds were expended by HFB.
- **Bowman Field Foundation:** On 15 April 2020, the Board voted to approve a grant of **\$15,000** to support their October 2020 festival. This obligation was held by the Trust Fund until requested by Bowman Field Foundation, but not later than 8

January 2021. On 23 September 2020, Pat McDonald notified Deputy Commissioner Stoops that the October 2020 festival was cancelled due to COVID-19 and would not need the funds this year resulting in de-obligation of these funds. This issue is closed.

- **Elizabethtown Community & Technical College:** On 18 September 2019, board approved **\$25,000**. Funds were held by KDVA until 5 March 2020 in order to inquire about alternate federal grant opportunities that ECTC ultimately did not qualify for. IAW KAR 37:010 follow up required in one year to ensure grant funds were used as requested. ECTC requests extension to 5 March 2021 (motion made by COL Bates and seconded by Dave Jarrett; motion for extension unanimously carried).

New Business

- **Liability Insurance for the VPTF Board:** An information briefing regarding the organization's indemnification provisions and 'director and officers' insurance coverage for directors and officers, including limits of liability was provided by General Counsel Dennis Shepherd. The board discussed potential enabling statute that permits the expenditure of state funds to purchase liability coverage for the Trust Fund Board, but ultimately the board decided no action was required due to the extremely low risk to Trust Fund board members.
1. **Veterans Club Inc.**
 - o Request for funding for a Camp Restoration Project, located in Louisville KY; a tiny home Community for Homeless Veterans. **\$100,000**
 - The Board voted to approve an obligation of **\$24,000** (motion made by COL Bates and seconded by SFC Noel; motion for approval unanimously carried).
 2. **Honor Flight Kentucky**
 - o Request for funding for Operation HERoes all-women veterans flight on or about Women Veterans Appreciation Day, 12 June 2021. **\$25,000**
 - The Board voted to approve an obligation of **\$25,000** (motion made by Carl Kaelin and seconded by Rick Eisert; motion for approval unanimously carried).
 3. **Awake Ministries**
 - o Request for funding to purchase a used passenger van for their Veterans Village. **\$20,000**
 - The Board voted to approve an obligation of **\$15,000** (motion made by COL Bates and seconded by Dave Jarrett; motion for approval unanimously carried).
 4. **Hyperbaric Oxygen Treatment for KY Veterans (HBOT4KYVETS, Inc.)**
 - o Request for funding to treat 5 veterans for PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injury. **\$60,000**
 - The Board voted to deny the request (motion made by Carl Kaelin, seconded by COL Bates; motion for denial unanimously carried).

5. **2020 Kentucky Veterans Day Parade**
 - o Request for funding for production for the parade and related event (pre-production, production fees and costs associated with the event). **\$15,000**
 - The Board voted to approve an obligation of **\$7,500** (motion for 15,000 made by Rick Eisert and seconded by Dean Stoops; however, amended motion for \$7,500 was made by Carl Kaelin and seconded by David Jarret; motion for approval carried for the amendment by 7 members, denied by 1 member Rick Eisert).

6. **Veterans Memorial Park of Kentucky, Inc.**
 - o Request for funding to place three (3) life sized statues in the Park – a female soldier, a combat dog and a kneeling male soldier with the battlefield cross. Beside each statue will be a marker describing the statue. **\$23,225**
 - The Board voted to approve an obligation of **\$23,225** (motion made by Dave Jarrett and seconded by COL Bates; motion for approval unanimously carried).

7. **DAV Chapter 158**
 - o Request for funding to purchase a chapter van (2020 T350 LRXL) for use by the Honor Guard and other chapter missions. **\$15,000**
 - The Board voted to deny the request because (motion made by Carl Kaelin and seconded by COL Bates; motion for denial unanimously carried).

8. **Active Heroes**
 - o Request for funding to install water, electric and sewage in two (2) mobile homes that were donated for the Veteran Retreat Center. These mobile homes are for veterans to stay in at no cost. **\$10,000**
 - The Board voted to approve an obligation of **\$10,000** (motion made by COL Fred Bates and seconded by SFC Noel; motion for approval unanimously carried).

9. **Indigent Veterans Burial Program**
 - o Request for funding to provide military honors and dignified interment for indigent veterans for the remainder of FY21. **\$10,000**
 - The Board voted to approve an obligation of **\$10,000** (motion made by Carl Kaelin and seconded by Dave Jarrett; motion for approval unanimously carried).

10. **Homeless Veterans Program**
 - o On 11 September 2020, the board voted via email to authorize registration proceeds and pledges from the 1-22 October 2020 Trust W.A.L.K. for Vets event be designated to support the KDVA Homeless Veterans Program. The Final Vote 0 = No, 10 = Yes. The request was approved. See attached Roll Call Vote. In the interim, the program request this funding to support the program through the remainder of FY21. Request for funding to provide military honors and dignified interment for indigent veterans for the remainder of FY21. **\$50,000**
 - The Board voted to approve an obligation of **\$50,000** (motion by Dave Jarrett and seconded by David Rummier; motion for approval unanimously carried).

Grant summary

- Total amount of Grants approved: 8 of 10
- Total amount approved: **\$164,725.00**

Announcements

- Carla Raisler – 15 July 2020. Major Raisler has applied for reappointment to the At-Large position she occupies, but the appointment has not been approved yet. However, Deputy Commissioner Stoops confirmed with the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions that she may serve until she resigns, is reappointed or replaced.

Next Meeting

DATE: December 16, 2020

TIME: 9:00 a.m. EST

PLACE KDVA, 1111 Louisville Road, Suite B, Frankfort, KY 40601

Motion made by David Jarrett and seconded by David Rummler. Motion for meeting date and time was unanimously approved.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made by COL Bates and seconded by Carl Kaelin to adjourn at 2:45 p.m. Motion for adjournment was unanimously approved.



Keith Jackson
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret)
Chairperson
Kentucky Veterans Program Trust Fund