

Illinois Veterans Advisory Council – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 11, 2019– 10:30am

Illinois Department of Affairs / Military Museum

Video Teleconference & Phone Conference Line

Attendance:

NAME	APPOINTED BY	PRESENT
Stanley Olenjack	Marine Corps League	X
Anthony Ortiz	IDVA Director	X
Al Reynolds	Disabled American Veterans	X
Senator Toi Hutchinson	President of Senate	
Senator Sue Rezin	Minority Leader of Senate	
Rep. Lance Yednock	Speaker of the House	X
Rep. Dan Swanson	Minority Leader of the House	X
Bill Wolff	IDVA Director	X
Clayton Young	IDVA Director	
Megan Everett	IDVA Director	
Quinn Triplett	IDVA Director	
Col James Smith	National Guard	X
Bill Phillips	Attorney General	X
Greg Curran	IL Secretary of State	X
Jorge Bermudez	IL Department of Securities	
Myron Kirby, Chairman	The American Legion	X
Keith Wetherell	AMVETS	X
Maureen Cattani	Blue Star Mothers of America	X
Pat Noel	Catholic War Veterans	X
Dr. Jerry Field	Jewish War Veterans	
Dan Finn / Joe Schaler	Military Order of the Purple Heart	
Michael Peck, Vice Chairman	Military Order of the World Wars	
Lou Myers	Reserve Officers' Association	X
Steve Fixler	Veterans Assistance Commission	X
Vince Long	Veterans of Foreign Wars	X
Roy Dolgos	Vietnam Veterans of America	
Ariel Shivers-McGrew	IDVA Director	X
Bob Tyler	MOAA	X
Bill Browne	Cook County VAC	X

New Members: Pat Noel

Guests: Janet Long, Ron Miller, James Flagg

Call to Order 10:30am

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions:

IDVA Staff:

Linda Chapa LaVia, Acting Director

Mark Patterson, Acting Legislative Liaison

Len Winnicki, Senior Home Administrator

Crystal Womack, Programs Manager

Gwen Diehl, Homes Manager

Connie Watson, Grants Manager

Approval of September 11th, 2019 minutes

Motion to approve the Minutes by Greg Curran

Lou Myers seconded motion

Minutes approved

Myron Kirby:

Thank you everyone for coming today. We are in a new venue for us and we are thankful for the opportunity. I appreciate the museum for offering their facility.

It has been brought forward that Linda Chapa LaVia is no longer the acting director. She was confirmed in November and stands as the Director of IDVA.

On the agenda it refers to a tour of Quincy. That will be a tour that the American Legion will be taking. All are welcome to attend with us in January. This is to showcase all that is being done in Quincy on the campus.

Pat Noel is a new member to IVAC. He is here representing the Catholic War Veterans.

Chairman's Report

Myron Kirby:

We are still trying to make progress on the report to the governor's office. We will be working on that shortly. The most important point we want the governor to see is that we have been out of the headlines. That is an accomplishment. It means we are taking good care of our veterans.

Having everyone gathered today with their loved ones is a tradition for me during the Christmas time. We will gather afterwards for a nice luncheon.

I would like to say thank you to our spouses for allowing us to do what we do. The support throughout the year is very important.

Veterans' Homes Coordinator Gwen Diehl:

The Department continues to analyze the results of the Audit for the Governor's Executive Order 2019-04 and fine tune the Homes' Water Management Plans, as well as conducting water testing as needed.

The Department is benefiting from a number of large capital bills and is going to be able to complete some deferred maintenance projects at each of the Homes as well as nearing substantial completion of construction at the Chicago Veterans' Home.

Ongoing Capital Projects

Illinois Veterans' Home at Anna

• Replace Nurse Call System	\$193,700
• General Building Repairs and Improvements	738,000
• Water Heater Replacement – NEW	<u>62,935</u>
	\$994,635



Photo dated 12/04/2019 – Steven Fixler

- **Illinois Veterans’ Home at Chicago**

- 200 Bed NHC Building **109,828,446**

Exterior work is mostly complete and work on interior finishes are moving quickly
Substantial Completion has been extended to April. However, the Department will not accept the building turnover until it can be occupied.

The situation still remains that the Department has tasks that need to be completed as we discussed at the September IVAC Meeting:

- Order, accept delivery of and inventory moveable equipment and install it.
- Inspections by IDPH and USDVA
- Recruit and hire staff; provide staff orientation
- Accept applications and implement a waiting list
- Admit veterans

Water safety measure have been designed into the mechanical and plumbing systems to ensure we are proactive in dealing with potential problems.

We have had over 194,900 man-hours on the job with only 2 first aid incidents.

The project is currently about 76%

- **Illinois Veterans’ Home at LaSalle**

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| • Replace Wander Guard and Nurse Call System (Original Building) | \$583,100 |
| • Replace Original Generator, Chiller and Mechanical Systems | 2,203,600 |
| • Renovate Original portion of the Home (East and West Wings) | <u>801,200</u> |
| | \$ 3,057,900 |

- **Illinois Veterans' Home at Manteno** - The Emergency Automatic Flush Valves and Mixing Valves has continued to evolve as undiscovered conditions are discovered and we want to ensure the utmost safety standards are attained through the project.
 - EMERGENCY Automatic Flush Valves and Mixing Valves \$4,215,000
 - Replace Air Handling Units in residential buildings 1,619,100
 - Replace Roofing Systems 1,182,300
 - Replace Water Mains on campus 2,038,000
 - Central Kitchen Renovation 750,700
 - Renovate Restrooms 3,187,300

\$12,992,400

- **Illinois Veterans' Home at Quincy** – The projects to replace the roofing and renovate the porches at Anderson and Somerville Domiciliaries are substantially complete
 - Construct Domestic Water Loop (construction cost not avail at this time) \$30,448
 - Moving forward to facilitate the footprint of the new buildings
 - Construct New Nursing Home and Domiciliary (less Asbestos Remediation) 229,053,000
 - Bridging Documents were completed October 2019.
 - Outreach events were conducted to allow general contractors and Architect firms to form teams
 - Oct 4 – SIU-Edwardsville
 - Oct 9 – SeatGeek Stadium in Bridgeview (Chicago)
 - Nov 4 – IVH-Quincy
 - Aggressive timeline:
 - November 11 – Request for Proposals released.
 - November 19 – Pre-submittal Meeting at IVH-Quincy
 - December 11 – PHASE 1 Submittals due
 - January 8, 2020 – Pre-selection Committee Meets to Shortlist up to 4 teams
 - January 9, 2020 – Phase 2 invitations issued
 - 60 days to prepare submittals
 - 75 days to prepare for interviews
 - January 16, 2020 – Pre-Proposal Meeting
 - March 9, 2020 – PHASE 2 Submittals Due
 - March 24, 2020 – Team Interviews
 - April 14, 2020 – Present Selection to CDB Board
 - Substantial Completion o/a December 31, 2023
 - Residents will be moved from Anderson and Somerville when the Domiciliary is complete
 - Kitchen and Laundry operations will be moved from Neilson dietary and Ehle Laundry when the new building is complete
 - Residents of Schapers and Markword will move into the new buildings and those buildings will be demolished
 - Abate Asbestos in Seven Buildings Prior to Demolition to make way for the footprint of the new building 947,000

\$ 230,030,448

Construction cost recap:

Illinois Veterans' Home at Anna	994,635
Illinois Veterans' Home at Chicago	109,828,446
Illinois Veterans' Home at LaSalle	3,057,900
Illinois Veterans' Home at Manteno	12,992,400
Illinois Veterans' Home at Quincy	<u>230,030,448</u>
	\$ 356,903,829

Gwen Diehl:

Len Winnicki has returned to IDVA and is now overseeing the Chicago home project. He will be in charge through the opening of the facility.

The other exciting project is at the Quincy home. Due to bacteria in the water, a capital project has been approved to build a new structure with a 210 bed capacity in skilled and 80 beds for the domiciliary.

This project will start with interviews in March.

Legislative Report:

Crystal Womack:

Mark was unable to join the meeting today. I have spoken with Mark and there have not been many changes at this time.

The bill for the admittance into the Veterans' Homes is included in the packet, however no hearing is scheduled at this time. Rep Swanson is there any others that we need to discuss?

Rep. Swanson:

SB 2293; Rep. Swanson will be filing to carry it in the house. Session will begin the 28th of January.

Myron Kirby:

Thank you Rep Swanson for your work and taking time out of your schedule to always be here and inform us.

Old Business:

Myron Kirby:

Gulf War Memorial at Oakridge Cemetery:

Lou Myers:

There is a change of the manager at Oakridge Cemetery. We currently have a bill to change the name from Gulf War to Freedom Monument in honor of those in Panama as well as the Gulf War and Afghanistan and Iraq. I would like a circular modular so we can have multiple spaces.

The bill title change will come up the first of next year.

We are limited space so we will need a combined effort to get this incorporated into one monument.

Myron Kirby:

Medal of Honor Highway. Mark P. will be sharing information with our new Legislative Liason.

Myron Kirby:

Regarding the annual report, we will put our heads together to come up with something to get out for the past 2 years. We have a lot of things going we just need to take a look back.

We have completed a lot of good things through the time.

New Business:

Myron Kirby:

Lottery Update

Connie Watson:

In 2018 we award 16 organization over \$630,000. In 2019 we awarded 23 organizations \$1,000,611. As of July, August and September we have not received funds from the ticket as it was not launched until the end of October.

For 2020 we have 3 grants that we have awarded so far totaling \$230,000. We will receive our next report from lottery in February and I will share in the March meeting.

This years ticket is called White Ice. If you go to an establishment and they do not have that ticket, you will have to request it for that location.

General Discussion:

Representative Lance Yednock:

I have had the honor to participate in the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day parade in Peru, IL. It is a fantastic event and I would encourage anyone who has not done so to try and attend.

Regarding the veteran designation on the drivers license, it was confirmed that the DD214 is accepted for Honorable or General discharge.

This designation will carry over to the Real ID that is required in 2020.

Transportation for veterans from home to appointments or other necessary locations is provided by organizations in the local areas.

Representative Dan Swanson:

James Rickle with the Department of Defense reached out in October and asked me to consider some legislation. These are primarily for active duty members.

In-State tuition for military dependents. If a family has an active duty member assigned to a post, their children or dependents would be able to go to a college in Illinois using the In-State tuition cost for their 4 years.

Licensure portability. Trying to streamline if a family moves to Illinois and they have a nursing license from another state or a teachers license; we would expedite the process so they were able to secure employment.

For active duty families that move (most time of moving is May through August) with a dependent enrolled into an AP course. With late registration sometimes the AP course may be full. This would allow early registration for those planning on moving.

Virtual schools. For a dependent signs up for a virtual school and they move it would be able to follow them.

The Cold War license plate legislation was passed last year and the plates will be available starting in January 2020.

Status of the welcome home packets being sent to the Guard. Will check with Mark Patterson on the status of those letters going out.

Our 4 legged veterans are now entering the arena. Families are adopting them. The question has been asked if they can receive recognition for them. These are dogs that are enlisted and have received discharge papers. Before we go to legislation to provide services to these veterans, I am looking to the veteran groups on how you think we should pursue.

This would include medication and medical services.

For the Good of the Veterans:

VFW has a program called Action Court. If you sign up you will receive weekly emails. You will also receive action emails if there is business regarding a veteran. The last one was a regarding the widows tax that they are trying to get rid of. It will allow you to contact your senator or representative.

Effective January 1, you no longer need the IDVA stamp on your DD214 to get the veteran status added to your license.

Retire the Colors:

Next Meeting Date: March 18, 2020 – Springfield Office / Chicago Office

Adjourn: Myron Kirby, Chairman