

Illinois Veterans Advisory Council – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 12, 2019– 10:30am

Illinois Department of Affairs Office

Video Teleconference & Phone Conference Line

Attendance:

NAME	APPOINTED BY	PRESENT
Stanley Olenjack	Marine Corps League	X
Roman Ortega Jr	IDVA Director	X
Al Reynolds	Disabled American Veterans	X
Senator Toi Hutchinson	President of Senate	
Senator Sue Rezin	Minority Leader of Senate	
Rep. Jerry Costello II	Speaker of the House	
Rep. Dan Swanson	Minority Leader of the House	X
Bill Wolff	IDVA Director	X
Clayton Young	IDVA Director	X
Megan Everett	IDVA Director	
Amy Sherman	IDVA Director	X
Command Sgt. Maj. Sean Carney	National Guard	X
Thomas Banning	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
William Bradford	Catholic War Veterans	
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	X
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	X
Ariel Shivers-McGrew	IDVA Director	X
Bob Tyler	MOAA	X
Bill Browne	Cook County Veterans Affairs	X

New Members:

Guests: Janet Long

Call to Order 10:30am

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions:

IDVA Staff:

Mark Patterson, Acting Legislative Liaison

Len Winnicki, Senior Home Administrator

Crystal Womack, Programs Manager

Gwen Diehl, Homes Coordinator

Approval of March 20th, 2019 minutes

Motion to approve the Minutes by Bill Wolff

Mike Peck seconded motion

Minutes approved

Chairman's Report

Myron Kirby:

Welcome to the committee and thank you for attending. We will be moving onto the reports section.

Acting Director Chapa LaVia is attending a prior engagement and will not be able to join us today.

This is our first excursion out in the field as IVAC being in the LaSalle Home. Our next meeting will take place at the Quincy Home with the specific details to come at a later date. We are hopeful to convene at the new home in Chicago in 2020.

This wraps up the Chairman report for the time being and we will update as anything new comes in.

Now onto the homes report.

Veterans' Advisory Council Meeting – June 12, 2019

Census and Waiting List Overview

(as of 6/4/19)

Home	Total Census	Skilled Care	DOM	Short Waiting List				Long Waiting List			
				Skill	SNU	Peace	DOM	Skill	SNU	Peace	DOM
Anna	58	50	8	32	-	44	2	26	-	4	13
La Salle	181	181	-	15	5	31	-	7	0	0	-
Manteno	280	280	-	7	4	87	-	25	3	0	-
Quincy	357	311	46	6	0	3	8	0	0	0	0
Prince	15	-	15	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	891	822	69	60	9	165	10	58	3	4	13

Current Program Initiatives

- Quincy resident building moves completed 5/30/19; the last residents in Elmore were moved to Markword building. Fletcher and Elmore are now empty and in caretaker status pending demolition for new facility.
- Chicago Home construction continues. Approximate timeline as of this date:
 - December 2019 – Substantial Completion
 - November 2019 – Begin review of applications and start Waiting List for admission.
 - April 2020 - Admissions to start.
 - December 2020 – Full census.

NOTE: All of the above dates are subject to revision depending on circumstances.

- We have started “*Interest Lists*” for current residents and new applicants who wish to reside at Chicago. These are for Veterans who may be interested in moving to IVHC. They will be contacted when it is time to apply (new applicants) when we have the Chicago Management Team on board and trained. Once we start that process, we will then begin to develop actual “*Waiting Lists*”.
- No further legionella cases at Manteno. No cases at any other Home.
- I will be retiring from state service June 30, 2019. I have enjoyed, and it has been a pleasure serving the Veterans of Illinois.

Len Winnicki:

Not a whole of changes on the census and waiting list. This is to be expected as we are starting to get a lot more peacetime veterans.

Myron Kirby:

Len, we thank you for what you have done for the veterans and we wish you well in retirement. We will miss you.

We will move onto the construction report.

Gwen Diehl:

Illinois Veterans' Home at Chicago - IVH-C is the largest capital project in the State currently in construction.

CDB has included water safety measures in the construction and IDVA is preparing a water management program for implementation.

- Construction of the Illinois Veterans' Home at Chicago is due to be substantially complete in December 2019 – hoping to make up the weather days. Following substantial completion, we will have moveable equipment moved in and set up.
- We will have to be inspected by IDPH for licensure then we will have to admit a small number of residents so USDVA can observe how we care for our residents. After they approved IVH-C, we can begin hiring additional staff and admit more residents.
- The building will be five stories with support and back of the house services on the first floor and residential units on the 2nd through 5th floors.
- Windows are being installed and the building will be 'dried out' so drywall can commence.
- Pay summary of current contract values:

○ General	\$56,739,691
○ Heating	6,824,012
○ Ventilation	3,656,267
○ Plumbing	4,843,089
○ Fire Sprinkler	1,009,457
○ Electric	8,845,926
	<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/>
	\$81,918,446

Illinois Veterans' Home at Manteno

- **Structural Repairs** of R1 and R4 were recently completed
- **Emergency Water Remediation** project is underway for R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, S1, S2 and Prince Buildings (similar to projects at IVH-Q)
- **Replace Air Handlers** in R1, R2, R3 and R4 – Contract Pending
- **Replace Roofing Systems** of the flat roof portions of R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, S1, S2 and Prince Buildings – Contract Pending

Illinois Veterans' Home at Quincy

The Master Plan was completed in December 2018. Perkins Eastman Architecture firm is using the Master Plan to guide preparation of bridging documents for the campus reconstruction based on the master plan. The reconstruction will include demolition of several buildings on the campus and construction of a new nursing care building and domiciliary.

- The proposed building will replace beds that will be lost during the demolition.
- The new building will be comprised of single occupancy resident rooms in small household units. Each room will have private bathrooms with roll-in showers.
- The new building will be approximately four stories, but due to the topography of the campus, will not be taller than the old stone building, which will remain on campus.

- The central kitchen and the laundry will be relocated in the new building and we are trying to connect Fifer and the new building to the Physical Therapy Building with a sheltered walkway.
- We are also analyzing the best way to connect the existing General Stores and Receiving to the new building and avoid duplicating storage spaces and loading docks.

Additional Projects at Quincy:

- **Renovation of 720 Sycamore Street** (renamed Hammond Hall) was completed in December 2018. It was inspected for licensure by Illinois Department of Public Health and approved for Per Diem Certification by USDVA. Hammond Hall serves 76 residents. IDVA entered into an intergovernmental agreement with Golden Bridges to assist residents with their transition to Hammond Hall. Golden Bridges also assisted with moving residents from Elmore Building to Markword so Elmore can be taken out of service pending demolition.
- **Replace Roofing Systems and Renovate Porches** at Somerville and Anderson Buildings.
- **Demolition of Rowland Barracks** was approved by Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and the work was completed in October 2018.
- **Construct Domestic Water Loop** to eliminate the old water mains. This project is due to be complete in 2023.
- **Virginia Tech** is reviewing the water treatment procedures and making recommendations.

Other Capital Projects

- **Illinois Veterans' Home at Anna**
 - Replace Nurse Call System – A/E contract pending
- **Illinois Veterans' Home at LaSalle**
 - Replace Nurse Call and Fire Alarm Systems – A/E contract pending
 - Replace Original Mechanical Systems – A/E contract pending

With no further questions we will move forward.

Legislative Report:

Mark Patterson:

For contact purposes, you are able to reach me at Mark.Patterson2@illinois.gov as I am filling in for the Legislative Liason.

I have provided a summary of all legislation for your review. I would be happy to research anything that you may have a question about.

Mike Peck:

When the bills come out of the rules committee, should we submit witness slips then?

Dan Swanson:

Everytime it is (a bill) added to a committee you have to redo a witness slip. Sometimes a committee will hear a bill and not take action on it. Then you would have to redo it. It will not bring the numbers forward. You will have to continually update them as they are important.

Old Business:

Crystal Womack:

Vets Cash lottery ticket is sold out. 3rd quarter approved in grants is \$289,313.

Greg Curran:

We are averaging about \$250,000 in grant awards per quarter.

New Business:

Myron Kirby:

Annual Report: We are required to make an annual report to the Governor's office. We currently are 2 years behind in reporting. We will need to look over the requirements and take the steps forward to complete this.

Medal of Honor Highway: Medal of Honor Highway; discussion of legislation to be created for the upcoming session. We do have 204 Medal of Honor Reciepients. We are looking into the specifics and will be securing sponsors for the bill. (US 20)

For the Good of the Veterans:

Myron Kirby:

The American Legion has passed a resolution to include our dates from December 1941 up until today to elgible into the American Legion. This will allow many members to now join that were between dates.

Dan Swanson:

I was able to also pass a bill for issuance of a Cold War Liscense Plate. It passed unanimously in both the House and Senate. There are over 300,000 soldiers that were exposed during that time frame. (HB2088)

Crystal Womack:

The Springfield Fair is 8/11 at the Lincoln Stage with the benefits expo in the Shed. The DuQuoin date is 8/25 with the programming moving to the afternoon with lunch starting at 12:30.

Mike Peck:

If we could address at the next meeting the Gulf War Memorial at Oakridge Cemetery. There is a competition for the memorial design.

Dan Swanson:

Recently I have received letters and message from inmates. They are asking how to find out what their benefits will be after they are released. The question is how to we get this information to them?

Greg Curran:

Are we able on a state level to reach out to those that are close to transitioning to provide them with the desired information. There is a program for inmates that are within 6 months of being released. This may be an opportunity for the VSO and SOS to reach out on multiple issues.

Mark Patterson:

The Federal VA does have a specific program for transitioning veterans. The territory for this area is about 3-4 states. That person acutally meets directly at the facilities themselves.

Stanley Olenjack:

The next time you meet with the Director, a suggestion is for the IDVA to become more interactive with Honor Flight.

Retire the Colors:

Next Meeting Date: September 11th, 2019 – Quincy Veterans Home

Adjourn: Myron Kirby, Chairman