

# **Coalition of Veterans Organizations**

## **Executive Committee**

### **Minutes**

October 20, 2018

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 1:05 PM.

- A quorum was present:
  - Willie Mack, Chair
  - Larry Nazimek, Vice Chair
  - Bruce Parry, Treasurer
  - Christopher LaFayette, Director
  - Darryl Howard, Director
  - Also in attendance: Michael Wallace
- The Tentative Agenda was presented [attached]

The Ad Hoc Committee was discussed

- They were to pick 3 activities CVO would focus on for a year for presentation to the Executive Committee for a decision.

Points from the Agenda:

- Property Taxes for Veterans
  - New Cook County Assessor
  - Letter to new assessor recommended
  - Disabled veterans tax abatement recommended
  - Sent to the Economics Committee

1:25 PM Connie Edwards, Recording Secretary joined the meeting.

- End the Means Test
  - Need for Federal Legislation
  - Part of our strategic issues
  - Support of University of Chicago (U of C) needed and anticipated
- Neurofeedback for PTSD/TBI: Connie to check out and report back
- Homelessness Committee
  - No Committee head now
  - The plan for homeless people doesn't always work for the person in direct need
  - VA committed to end veteran homelessness by 2015
  - This disappeared.
  - Christopher & Mike worked to get veterans representation on civilian committees dealing with veterans homelessness
  - We can deal with veterans that need services and don't have them.
  - We can partner with the U of C Urban Anthology Department.
  - Need for an Outreach Committee
  - Mike will chair Homelessness Committee
    - Need to focus on Outreach

- Jobs Program for veterans with other than honorable discharges.
  - Need to find these veterans for case studies and a possible lawsuit
  - State law dictates that VACs deal only with those with honorable discharges
  - Willie to check with Carlos Luna
  - This is a big issue
- Veterans Preference: Need to extend this to the private sector the has contracts with the government

Votes on the priorities for CVO:

- Connie: Homelessness, Jobs with Bad Discharges
- Larry: Dental, Jobs with Bad Discharges, Outreach
- Bruce: Homelessness, Outreach, Dental
- Mike: Homelessness, Outreach, Dental
- Christopher: Homelessness, Outreach, Dental
- Darryl: Homelessness, Jobs with Bad Discharges, Neurofeedback
- Willie: Property Tax , Outreach , Homelessness

Vote totals:

- Homelessness 7; Jobs with Bad Discharges 5; Outreach 5; Dental 3; Neurofeedback 1; Property Tax 1

Need to think outside the box!

Next CVO meeting: January 16, 2019

Membership

- Joining now counts for 2019

New Executive Committee member to fill vacancy: Tabled

Next Executive Committee meeting: 6 PM, January 16, 2019 before membership meeting.

- Nominations meeting (Executive Committee) in February

Confidential discussion of VACCC situation

Meeting responsibility for food, etc: Proposal: Francine

Mayoral summit: Christopher

- Get Teamsters to support this
- Adjourned 3:09 PM

Respectfully submitted,

*Bruce E. Parry*

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Treasurer & Meeting Recorder