



## Kent County Veterans Services

836 Fuller Ave NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
Phone: 616-632-5722 Fax: 616-632-5723  
[KCVS@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:KCVS@kentcountymi.gov)  
DRAFT minutes 9-9-2021

Committee Present: Mary Johnson, John Baxter, Mel Bauman, Jill Wolfe, Michael Blundell, Trish Torres

Committee Absent:

Staff Present: Martha Burkett, Rachel Wustman Ryan Grams

Guests: Tom Pritz (13 On Your Side), Claudette Lozano (Fox 17)

1. Meeting called to Order/Introductions –
  - a. The meeting was called to order by Veterans Services Committee Chair Mary Johnson at 8:30am. **There were technical difficulties involving the audio, so portions of the meeting were unable to be transcribed.**
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Committee Member John Baxter led those in attendance to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Approval of the Minutes from Previous Month
  - a. Committee Chair Mary Johnson asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Michael Blundell motioned to approve the minutes. Mel Bauman seconded
4. Success Stories
  - a. Veterans Services Supervisor Ryan Grams shared that he had seen the KCVS ad on MTV.
5. Monthly Impact Reports
  - a. Veterans Services Supervisor Ryan Grams provided an update, 31 fully developed claims were submitted, 79 claims are in development, and 18 claims were awarded, 7 SSR claims were awarded, and 2 burial claims were awarded, and \$2,750 in food vouchers awarded last month.
6. Manager's Report
  - a. **Audio here was unintelligible.**
  - b. Martha is working with Network 180 to come up with some mutual resources for veterans.
  - c. Martha shared that the Yellow Ribbon event was successful.
  - d. Martha shared plans for the upcoming Freedom Cruise.
  - e. Martha shared the updates for the upcoming ArtPrize grand opening for the veteran art projects.

- f. Martha shared the upcoming changes to the KCVS schedule. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, the office will be open from 7am to 6pm. Tuesdays and Thursdays it will be open from 7am-8pm. These hours are to allow partner organizations to use the space for veteran events.
  - g. Martha shared updated numbers for the budget report.
7. Old Business
- a. **AUDIO WAS UNINTELLIGIBLE**
8. New Business
- a. Thomas Pritz (13 On Your Side) shared updates on the KCVS Ad campaign for 2021 so far. The ad campaign has reached 636,000 people.
  - b. Claudette Lozano (Fox 17) shared an update on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter ad campaign.
  - c. Committee Chair Mary Johnson shared that Committee Member Shane Scherer resigned from the committee due to family obligations. That leaves 3 openings for the committee in January (Shane Scherer, Mary Johnson, and John Baxter).
  - d. Committee Chair Mary Johnson shared that she would like to extend her term as chair to get the committee through the approval of the new millage.
  - e. **AUDIO WAS UNINTELLIGIBLE**
  - f. Committee Chair Mary Johnson asked for a motion to approve the changes to the committee guidelines. Committee Member Mel Bauman motioned. An unknown party seconded.
  - g. Committee Chair Mary Johnson called a vote for approval of the new guidelines. Approval passed with unanimous vote.
  - h. **AUDIO WAS UNINTELLIGIBLE**
  - i. Committee Member Mel Bauman made a motion to extend Committee Chair Mary Johnson's appointment for another year. Unknown party seconded.
  - j. Committee Chair Mary Johnson shared that her extension must be approved by the board.
  - k. Committee Chair Mary Johnson called a vote to approve her extension. Unanimous Approval.
  - l. **AUDIO WAS UNINTELLIGIBLE**
  - m. Committee Member Mel Bauman shared his thoughts on committee participation. **AUDIO WAS UNINTELLIGIBLE.**
  - n. KCVS Manager shared plans for the community Halloween event, pending funding. **AUDIO WAS UNINTELLIGIBLE**
  - o. Committee Chair Mary Johnson and Committee Member Mel Bauman shared updates on the Ashley Furniture vent. **AUDIO WAS UNINTELLIGIBLE.**
9. Public Comment
- a. Unknown party shared their appreciation for the work that KCVS does for veterans, on behalf of the Army Navy club of Grand Rapids.
  - b. Elena Bridges asked if there is any advertising and in person outreach happening outside of just Grand Rapids. Committee Chair Mary Johnson shared that public comment is just for comments, and questions can be made to Martha Burkett and Rachel Wustman outside of the meeting.
10. Adjournment –Veterans Services Committee Chair Mary Johnson moved adjourned the meeting at 9:39 am.