



## SOUTHFIELD VETERANS' COMMISSION

MINUTES FEBRUARY 8, 2021

The meeting of the Southfield Veterans' Commission was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chairperson Gerald Houston.

Roll Call - Members present:

Houston, Dr. Caruthers, John Eley, Barbara Seldon, Lt. Shane Russell

Absent: Danny Craig, Gregory Pulliam, Ben Clark

Public attendees: Stephanie Shannon, Chaka McDonald

**We have a quorum.**

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: COMMISSIONER GERALD HOUSTON:

Chairman Houston welcomed everyone to the first virtual SVC meeting. He spoke about the impact of the Covid-19 virus on the abilities of many organizations including SVC to have meetings, and complete worthy projects. He mentioned the illness of Commissioner Pulliam who is hospitalized. He gave an update on his progress. He will keep us informed.

### SECRETARY'S REPORT: COMMISSIONER BARBARA SELDON

Barbara Seldon sent the previous minutes of 3/9/2020 and the latest directory to Chair Houston for review. Dr. Caruthers and Barbara Seldon prepared By-laws changes to include emeritus status. They were typed and sent to Chair Houston for review. The changes are in new business below. They will be brought to the body for review and acceptance.

### TREASURER'S REPORT: COMMISSIONER RODNEY CARUTHERS

Dr. Caruthers reported that the current balance is **\$6,309.03**

He states: "The current pandemic environment has slowed down processes at numerous organizations, however, Southfield Veterans Commission is still in the mix for partnering consideration for SVA (see Mr. Jensen attachment below)"

**VFW, SVA Announce 2021 Student Veteran Fellowship Class:** Five Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) members and Student Veterans of America (SVA) leaders have been selected to participate in the 2021 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship. The

fellowship is a semester-long academic experience where students submit a policy proposal to address an issue related to student veteran success on campus and beyond, improving veteran's health care and benefits, transitioning from military to civilian life, and challenges for service members and their families. The fellows will participate in the VFW Virtual Legislative Conference, during which they will be paired with their VFW Department (state) delegation and join with them in virtual meetings with their members of Congress to advocate for their policy proposals.

The five student veterans of the 2021 class are:

- Cameron Zbikowski, Navy veteran, Grand Valley State University
- Brandon Angel, Army veteran, Liberty University
- EL'ona Kearney, Army veteran, The Evergreen State College
- Eric Sowers, Army veteran, The Ohio State University
- John Davis, Army veteran, Harvard University

#### **CHARITABLE GIVING COMMITTEE: COMMISSIONER JOHN ELEY AND BARBARA SELDON**

Chaka McDonald presented an idea that the Charitable Giving Committee (CGC) look into having a drive by food giveaway for veterans and their families. The committee will meet with Chaka McDonald to discuss the details of the event.

**It was moved and seconded that the CGC meet to investigate the possibility of having a drive by food giveaway. Carried Unanimously**

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

-None currently

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Dr. Caruthers and Barbara Seldon looked into changing the by-laws to include the Emeritus status.

**It was reviewed moved, and seconded by the members present that the verbiage be added to the SVC By-Laws. CARRIED**

The changes to the by-laws will state:

**Emeritus Board Members:**

**Article #9: Emeritus Board members**

**Definition:** There shall be an **honorary** category of the Southfield Veteran's Commission known as **Emeritus**. An Emeritus member is one who is nominated and elected by the board of Southfield Veteran Commissioners (SVC). **Emeritus** board members shall be selected from those board members who have served on the board with distinction and excellence. **Emeritus** board members shall be entitled to:

- Receive all written notices and information which are provided to other board member commissioners.
- Attend all board meetings.
- Participate in committees in which they serve.
- Attend all event conducted by the SVC.

**The Emeritus board member shall not be:**

- Subject to any attendance policy counted in determining if a quorum is present.
- Hold office.
- Vote at any board meeting.

**Eligibility:**

**To be considered as a designation of Board member Emeritus person must:**

- Be a current or former board member.
- Served the SVC with distinction for at least 10 years.
- Held an important leadership role (Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer) and made significant contributions.
- Completed the terms for which s/he was appointed.
- Participated in the organization's activities (events, volunteerism, fundraising, governmental or legislative relations, networking, etc.).

**Election:**

The executive committee of the SVC shall consider potential candidates and may nominate one or more individuals for the Emeritus position. The executive committee shall present the nomination(s) along with supporting statements to the Southfield Veterans Board of Commissioners for consideration. A simple

majority of members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is needed to approve the appointment.

**Article 10. APPROVAL.**

The foregoing Constitution and By-Laws of Southfield Veterans' Commission shall be the true original publication of this organization as amended and adopted at the meeting by a majority of the members on this date.

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gerald Houston, Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gregory Pulliam, Vice Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. Barbara Purifoy-Seldon, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Rodney Caruthers, Treasurer

By-Laws approved by unanimous vote on February 8, 2021 at a regularly scheduled SVC meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Hearing no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at about 8:30 PM.

**NEXT VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING: March 8, 2021**

Respectfully submitted,  
Commissioner Barbara Purifoy-Seldon  
SVC Secretary