**ADVISORY BOARD ON VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**FOR THE MAYOR’S OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (MOVA)**

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**MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, July 7th 2015**

**441 4th Street NW Suite 540 South**

**Washington DC 20001**

**6:30 – 8:00 p.m.**

Prior to the Meeting being called to order – MOVA Director Lambert requested ten minutes for an overview of expectations of the Board as well as the vision for the MOVA.

(Presentation was handed out to each member and is available upon request)

The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Postell. Members saluted the flag and pledged allegiance. Recording Secretary Brenda Hall called the roll – with the following members/persons was present**:**

Donald Brooks

Prince Brooks

Cecil Byrd, Ex Officio

Joe Wynn

Brenda Hall (MOVA Staff)

Tammi Lambert (MOVA)

 Ernest Postell, Sr.

 Claudia Treadwell, Ex Officio

 CSM Preston, Ex-Officio

 Victoria Pridemore

 Jesse Searles (DOES)

 Michael Sindram (Public)

 Chairman Postell called the meeting to call acceptance of the minutes, minutes were favored and accepted as provided.

Mr. Byrd stated that since there is not an establishment of a quorum, there should not be a meeting. Based on the number of members on the board (7) there was an official quorum, Chairman Postell states that Roberts Rules of Order are needed for all members so that there would be a more efficient board.

Chairman Postell stated that the furniture program should take over the meeting and that there has been a surplus property division, so if there is any matters that need to be addressed they should come through the Chairman. If there are any matters that need to be addressed to the Director please come through the Chairman.

 Chairman Postell recognized public body Michael Sindram. Mr. Sindram stated that he has not received any assistance from the Office of Veterans Affairs since it’s inception from Mr. Miller to Mr. Smith to Matt Cary and now we have this (Director Lambert) He has asked about the furniture program and veterans court, he has stated the office has no veteran staff and they have non-military staff and he has been attacked by staff and there are tickets that are sold on the streets. Member Treadwell has stated that the office is working on the court issue. Mr Sindram stated that the council and MOVA is not doing what is needed to have a court. Ms. Pridemore addressed that this is a federal issue. Since she has paralegal experience and knowledge of the Veterans Court Issue, she would be more than happy to assist however it is a lengthy process and this matter is NOT within the purview of MOVA.

Mr. Wynn stated that he has seen some changes within MOVA since Director Lambert has been in the office. Mr. Wynn shed light on the work that is currently being done within the office as well as cleared the allegations that nothing has been done regarding the things that were done under the previous Directors. The fact remains that the board has been off track for the last four years and he does not see how the board can move forward unless new leadership and structure within the board. The board is currently wasting time going around making round about statements. The Board needs to go back to the way is was, which is “ADVISING” the office and the Mayor on issues that affect the veterans of the District as it was instituted by former Director Miller. Additionally their needs some clarification of the way the Chairman was voted as the chair. No disrespect to the current chairman it seems there should be a new chair actually appointed to the Board. Since the current chair was voted on in a meeting not appointed by the Mayor as stated in the legislation.

 Chairman Postell responded to the statements from board member Wynn regarding the chairman position. Director Lambert interjected that the issue will be taken to MOTA for resolution. Mr. Sindram asked about the appointment of a Chair already and Director Lambert clarified that no one has been sworn in as of yet. Members spoke on how each new administration should have handled the new board members and therefore the tabling of the appointment of the Chair as well as the status of the board.

Ms. Hall asked if all members had registered for the training and also made notation that Mr. Donald Brooks was exempt from training because he had taken training.

Chairman Postell called for the meeting to adjourn at 8:30pm