

Volunteer Tennessee
Quarterly Commission Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting
May 21, 2021

Members in Attendance: Chairing: Donovan Robertson*, Tobi Amosun (TDoH), Anne Havard (TDHS), Andrea Hill*, Michael Hogan (TDS&HS), Jessica Ivey (TDMHSAS), Rick Kriesky*, Buddy Lea (TDF&A), Heidi Leming (TBR), Greg Lyles*, Nancy Schelin (TDEC), Jason Scott*, Terry Silver*, Patti Smith (AmeriCorps), Tracy Van de Vate*, Amy Walter*, Betty White*, Eileen Wollam*

Members not in Attendance: Stephanie Davis*, Brittany Debitry-Barker* (TDOE), Bobby Graves (TDM), Marjahna Hart (TDCS), Tina Hodges*, Lee Moten*, Carol Oglesby (UT-C), Wanda Perry*, Kane Reeves*, VACANT (TDLWD)

Guests: Don Sowers, TN Tech

Staff: Shannon Duke, Neelam Gupta, Monica Hodges, Stephanie Houghton, Jim Snell, Daniel Sparkman

Quorum Count: 10 of 17 appointed (9 is quorum). (*) indicates voting member.

Donovan Robertson called the virtual meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and noted that First Lady, Maria Lee, would be joining the meeting at 9:45 to help Volunteer Tennessee celebrate the launch of the Tennessee Serves Network volunteer portal. He then asked for a quick round of introductions. Donovan then explained that the January board meeting did not have a quorum and asked everyone to review the minutes from the October 16, 2020 meeting. Donovan called for a motion to approve the October 16, 2020 meeting minutes. Michael Hogan made a motion, and Greg Lyles seconded. Donovan asked Secretary, Terry Silver, to do a roll call vote. Terry called the roll, and the motion passed unanimously. Donovan asked everyone to review the minutes from the January 28, 2021 meeting. Donovan called for a motion to approve the January 28, 2021 meeting minutes. Eileen Wollam made a motion, and Jason Scott seconded. Donovan asked Terry to do a roll call vote. Terry called the roll, and the motion passed unanimously.

Donovan called on Amy Walter to discuss the Champion of Service awards program. Amy encouraged board members to award community service through the Champion of Service Awards. Amy and Terry have awarded two community members Don Miller and Chip Harris. The Communications Committee created a Tracking Board Participation chart that will showcase the number of Champion Recipients selected in 2021.

Donovan gave a report out on Friends of Volunteer Tennessee, including the addition of two new board members and a podcast that will promote volunteerism.

Jim gave the Director's report. Volunteer Tennessee staff are continuing to work remotely for the time being and will continue to do so even after COVID restrictions are lifted. Staff concluded the search for the new Training and Special Projects Manager, and Candace Taylor will start June 1. She will work remotely from Memphis. This is Stephanie Houghton's last board meeting, so Jim asked the board to join him in wishing her the best. Jim showed America's Service Commissions' FY2022 AmeriCorps Agency federal funding request, which includes significant increases for AmeriCorps

State and National, State Service Commissions, and the Volunteer Generation Fund. Jim reviewed outcomes from the 2021 Tennessee Conference on Volunteerism and Service-Learning and the 2020 Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards. Both events were virtual due to COVID-19, and conference attendance increased: 332 people registered with 24 total workshops and 50 presenters. He shared a new research report from America's Service Commissions: "The Value of State Service Commissions." Jim concluded his director's report.

Donovan called on Michael Hogan to present on the funding decisions. Michael began by asking if there were any identified conflicts. Anne Harvard and Greg Lyles identified conflicts related to the Volunteer Center and Youth Civic Engagement supplemental funding. Anne Harvard, Nancy Schelin, Jason Scott, and Tracy Van de Vate identified conflicts related to the AmeriCorps funding.

Michael first reviewed the AmeriCorps Competitive results. Five of the nine programs that applied to the National Competitive process were selected for funding.

Michael then moved to the AmeriCorps Formula funding discussion. Because of their conflicts, Anne Harvard, Nancy Schelin, Jason Scott, and Tracy Van de Vate did not participate in the discussion and did not vote. Michael gave an overview and called on staff to give additional details on the Formula funding. Jim described the 3-step process which addressed low scores and funding programs at current request level. To meet amount requested by amount available, step 3 decreased funding equitable for continuing programs. Donovan called for a motion to approve the 2021 AmeriCorps Formula Funding recommendation as presented by the Grants Committee. Betty White made a motion, and Amy Walter seconded. Donovan asked Terry to do a roll call vote. Terry called the roll, and the motion passed unanimously.

Michael shared revisions to the 2021 AmeriCorps Funding Timeline. The revisions included two additional dates in September and October upon guidance from the AmeriCorps Agency. Donovan called for a motion to approve the 2021 AmeriCorps Funding Timeline revision as presented by the Grants Committee. Greg Lyles made a motion, and Rick Kriesky seconded. Donovan asked Terry to do a roll call vote. Terry called the roll, and the motion passed unanimously.

Donovan called on Jim to discuss the Service-Learning and Instructional Methods Course Revision pilot. Jim explained the funding tiers which would fund colleges of education through course revisions to elementary and secondary education instructional methods to incorporate service-learning as an instructional method. The board would vote at a later time on actual funding to colleges of education.

Donovan called on Michael to present the 2021 Commission Support Grant budget revision. Michael reviewed revisions to the 2021 Commission Support Grant budget revision. The budget was approved in October, but AmeriCorps only granted half of funding to start the 2021 calendar year. AmeriCorps granted the second half of funding and allowed funds to be carried over from 2020 to 2021. Donovan called for a motion to approve the 2021 Commission Support Grant budget revision as presented by the Grants Committee. Rick made a motion, and Betty seconded. Donovan asked Terry to do a roll call vote. Terry called the roll, and the motion passed unanimously.

Michael reviewed 2021 Volunteer Center/Youth Civic Engagement Supplemental Funding recommendations. Because of their conflict, Greg Lyles and Anne Harvard did not participate in the discussion and did not vote. Oasis Center and the United Ways of Tennessee were the only two

applicants for the supplemental funding, and staff recommended funding both supplemental requests. Donovan called for a motion to approve the 2021 Volunteer Center/Youth Civic Engagement Supplemental Funding recommendations as presented by the Grants Committee. Tobi Amosun made a motion, and Andrea Hill seconded. Donovan asked Terry to do a roll call vote. Terry called the roll, and the motion passed unanimously.

Michael then reviewed the 2021 Commission Investment Fund budget revision. The budget was approved in October, but AmeriCorps only granted half of funding to start the 2021 calendar year. AmeriCorps granted the second half of funding and allowed funds to be carried over from 2020 to 2021. Staff added some line items to use funds by the end of calendar year of 2021. Donovan called for a motion to approve the 2021 Commission Investment Fund budget revision as presented by the Grants Committee. Jason made a motion, and Buddy Lea seconded. Donovan asked Terry to do a roll call vote. Terry called the roll, and the motion passed unanimously.

Donovan called on Jim to discuss the 2022-24 State Service Plan public input. Jim described the document which each committee will work on for the 2022-24 in addressing the five priority areas: Food Deserts/Insecurity, Education Gaps, Economic Opportunities, Diversity Equity and Inclusion, and Emergency Preparedness and Community Resilience. Committees will address Interventions and Results columns. Jim requested committees look at 3-year outcome and to see if they are appropriate for issue area.

At 11:30 a.m., the board took a short lunch break. Donovan reconvened the meeting at 12:00 p.m. Donovan shared the initiative to move our state to become #1 in the country for volunteerism. Tennessee is currently #33 while Utah is #1.

Donovan called on Jim to frame the committee work on the 2022-24 State Service Plan. The board went into committee meetings at 12:15 p.m.

Donovan reconvened the meeting at 1:15 p.m. Jim requested each committee share highlights with a focus on 1-3 year outcomes.

Board Development Committee

Jason Scott shared that food deserts might be a longer-term result/outcome rather than 1-3 years. Ideas included increase awareness of food resources, greater number of individuals who support feeding, feeling more food secure, and increase access to community-based resources. Concerns were raised about decrease number of recipients at food banks could reflect access issue.

Communications Committee

Stephanie Houghton shared the committee's idea to increase awareness of volunteer opportunities and partnering with organizations that engage in such issues.

Foundations of Service Committee

Betty White shared that committee was on track with other committee ideas. They kept the decrease of food deserts and added an increase volunteer opportunities to provide assistance educational focus. The committee also added increase corporate engagement and volunteering to provide awareness of job opportunities and career paths.

Grants Committee

Buddy Lea shared the committees' idea of setting a goal in 2024 or within the 3-7 year time frame with a certain percentage of programs will focus on that particular goal. Programs could work toward the distribution of leftover/excess food from restaurants to rural areas. Eileen shared the discussion on diversity and bias and suggested all Tennesseans have equal access to income revenue/jobs and education/training for those jobs.

Strategic Partnerships Committee

Nancy Schelin shared that the committee agreed with all recommendations from other committees. The committee suggested that improving reading and communication skills be kept. The committee thought that the section on increase education and knowledge was vague and added students improve testing scores across all subject areas.

Donovan asked if there were any final questions. Jim reminded the board that today was Stephanie's last day and all thanked her for her service. He gave a reminder about the next board meeting on August 13 and asked everyone to complete the online meeting evaluation. Donovan then called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Eileen motioned, and Andrea seconded. Donovan adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Approved: _____ Date: _____
Secretary

Meeting minutes prepared by Terry Silver, Secretary.