



NATIONAL COMMISSION ON MILITARY, NATIONAL, AND PUBLIC SERVICE

Public Minutes of January 2018 Commission Meeting

The National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service (the Commission) held a meeting on January 18-19, 2018, at its offices in Crystal City, Arlington, VA. The meeting concerned organizational and other pre-decisional and deliberative matters and was closed to the public pursuant to Public Law 114-328, section 554(b)(3).

Attendance

Commissioners present:

- Mr. Edward T. Allard III
- Mr. Steve Barney
- The Honorable Janine Davidson (1/18 only)
- The Honorable Mark Gearan (except for portion of 1/19)
- Ms. Avril Haines
- The Honorable Dr. Joseph Heck (except for portion of 1/19)
- Ms. Jeanette James
- Mr. Alan Khazei
- Mr. Thomas Kilgannon
- Ms. Shawn Skelly
- The Honorable Debra Wada (except for portion of 1/19)

Others present:

- Kent Abernathy, Executive Director
- Jill Rough, Director of Research and Analysis (1/19 only)
- Keri Lowry, Director of Governmental and Public Engagement (except for portion of 1/19)
- Gregory Brinsfield, Director of Operations (present for portion of 1/19)
- Paul Lekas, General Counsel
- Rachel Rikleen, Deputy General Counsel (present for portion of 1/19)
- Yolanda Hands, Operations Program Manager (present for portion of 1/19)
- Peter Morgan, Deputy Director of Operations (present for portions of 1/19)

- Sandy Scott, on detail from the Corporation for National and Community Service (present for portion of 1/19)

January 18, 2018 Session

Beginning at approximately 0900 on January 18, 2018, the Commission convened at the Commission's offices. The Chairman moved to close sessions on January 18-19 to the public because pre-decisional and organizational matters would be deliberated. All Commissioners agreed.

Mr. Abernathy and Ms. Lowry provided an overview of the day, which would include the Commission's public launch event. Following the overview and brief deliberations on other topics, Commissioners departed for the public launch event.

January 19, 2018 Session

The Commission resumed its meeting at approximately 0835 on January 19, 2018. All Commissioners except for Dr. Davidson were present. The Chairman moved to make the meeting closed to the public because pre-decisional and organizational matters would be deliberated. All Commissioners present agreed.

Approval of Minutes

The Chairman led a discussion about the proposed minutes for the Commission's December 2017 meeting. Following this discussion, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the December 2017 minutes as amended.

Mr. Abernathy then reviewed the day's agenda.

General Deliberations

From approximately 0845 to 1015, Commissioners deliberated various issues. These included a review of the public launch event and suggestions for future events. At 0925, the Chairman and both Vice Chairs departed with Ms. Lowry to tape a television interview. Prior to departing, the Chairman designated Mr. Barney to serve as Acting Chair.

Legal & Ethics Update

The legal and ethics update began at approximately 1015 and ended at approximately 1100.

Mr. Lekas provided an update on information collection efforts. Mr. Lekas and Ms. Rikleen then briefed commissioners on the Commission's social media policy. They followed this briefing with an ethics training concerning social media usage.

Research Update

Beginning at approximately 1115, Dr. Rough provided the Commissioners with a research update and proposed six-month plan for public meetings.

Media Training

From 1300 until 1430, Justin Platt, Vice President of Media Strategies and Services at Edelman, delivered a presentation titled “Media & Message Coaching” to the Commission. Mr. Platt provided Commissioners with a slide deck that summarizes his presentation. By way of background, Mr. Platt spent 25 years in the U.S. Army and served as a public affairs officer. Now in the private sector at Edelman, Mr. Platt finds time to do pro bono work helping veterans organizations.

Operations Update

The operations update began at approximately 1445 and lasted until 1530. Mr. Brinsfield briefed the Commission on the status of information technology procurement, personnel onboarding, human resources procedures, facility issues, and financial and travel management.

General Discussion

From approximately 1500-1530, the Commission continued deliberations on a variety of topics raised during the course of the two days.

Mr. Abernathy asked the Commission to recognize Sandy Scott for his contributions to the launch event and to furthering the Commission’s efforts with service-community engagement and public affairs.

Executive Session

At approximately 1530, Commissioners convened an executive session outside the presence of staff. Following the executive session, Chairman Heck met with executive staff to brief them on various requests and comments from the Commissioners.

Prepared by Paul Lekas, General Counsel

Adopted by the Commission on February 23, 2018