

**Village of Gurnee  
Veterans Blue Ribbon Commission  
Minutes**

**DATE:** January 25, 2024  
**TIME:** 7:00 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Conference Room A at the Gurnee Village Hall located at 325  
N. O'Plaine Rd., Gurnee IL

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

- A. Jim Huisel called the meeting to order at approximately 7:02 p.m.
- B. Roll Call: Jim Huisel, Michelle Raine-Shepherd, Todd Woodson, Jim Richardson, Konrad Otachel and Peter Karlovic
- C. Other Officials in Attendance: Austin Pollack, Assistant to the Village Administrator

**2. New Business**

Austin explained the structure of the meeting and how they will be conducted.

Each member introduced themselves, their background, and interest in the commission topics.

- A. Meeting Organization – Chairman Huisel  
Jim skipped over meeting organization and stated that he had someone identified to organize the future meetings.
- B. Open Meetings Act Guidelines  
Austin gave a brief overview and abbreviated training on the open meetings act, what the Village does and how the commission will adhere to the guidelines.

**3. Discussion Items**

Jim gave an overview of how the commission was formed and how there was a need identified. He stated that there seems to be a disconnect between the public and how to help veterans. Jim stated that the goal of the commission is to identify and make recommendations to the Village Board on what the Village can do to be more veteran and military friendly.

Jim identified issues such as employment, mental health, physical health, housing, financial challenges, education, family support, access to benefits, and VA System Challenges.

The group discussed veteran's issues, shared their thoughts and experiences, and talked about needs they have identified.

**4. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**5. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned approximately 7:44pm.