

Nebraska Board of Parole
Business Meeting Minutes
Nebraska Department of Correctional Services Central Office
Folsom & West Prospector Place, Bldg. 1
Lincoln, NE 68509

August 25, 2020
2:30pm

The business meeting convened at 2:30 p.m. on August 25, 2020. The following persons were present: Rosalyn Cotton, Chair; Layne Gissler, Vice Chair; Virgil Patlan, Member; Robert Twiss, Member; Mark Langan, Member; Nicole Miller, Legal Counsel; and Julie Micek, Director of Supervision and Services.

I. The business meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by Chair Rosalyn Cotton.

II. Roll Call:

Chair Rosalyn Cotton	Present
Vice Chair Layne Gissler	Present
Member Virgil Patlan	Present
Member Robert Twiss	Present
Member Mark Langan	Present

a. Chair Cotton announced the notice of this public meeting was placed on the Board of Parole website on August 18, 2020; and notice of publication was placed in the Lincoln Journal Star on August 20, 2020.

b. Chair Cotton announced the Open Meeting Act information is available in the room.

III. Approval of the Agenda and Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Member Mark Langan and seconded by Member Virgil Patlan to approve the agenda and the business meeting minutes from January 28, 2020. Motion Carried - Vote: 5 - 0 Voting -

Chair Rosalyn Cotton	Yes
Vice Chair Layne Gissler	Yes
Member Virgil Patlan	Yes
Member Robert Twiss	Yes
Member Mark Langan	Yes

IV. Public Comment Period

The floor was opened for public comments on items listed on the agenda. No public comments were posed.

V. Travel Permit Policy for Outside Employment – Chair Rosalyn Cotton
Chair Cotton requested that this agenda items be deferred to the October 6, 2020 meeting.

- VI. Sex Offenders/Paroling Outside – Restrictions/Special Conditions – Rosalyn Cotton
Chair Cotton requested that this agenda items be deferred to the October 6, 2020 meeting.
- VII. Division of Parole Supervision operations during Covid-19 – Julie Micek
A 19 page report was submitted for the Board to review but as a quick overview during the last 6 months, starting around the date of March 16, 2020, Parole began doing business in a remote environment setting. Staff meetings, huddles and training continued remotely until early summer when we moved into Phase II. Officers now are in the office part time on a rotating schedule seeing clients and working in the field. This may be reviewed and changed as we move into colder weather. Parole Supervision are following all supervision guidelines and seeing clients. Remote technology is being utilized for some of the client contact. Specific guidelines are in place for the cleaning of spaces to ensure as safe an environment as possible including the use of Plexiglas shields. Drug testing was put on hold temporarily and Parole Supervision did switch to the use of patches. We are just returning to the use of our normal testing procedures.

Member Mark Langan inquired if Parole has been able to keep up on caseloads? Ms. Micek did feel initially there was some adjustment in not having the team atmosphere to discuss cases but now that has leveled out and the agency is in a good place regarding handling the workload.

Member Langan also asked additionally how the colder weather might affect operations. Currently officers are meeting clients in outside locations. As weather becomes cold, it is the intent to look for additional conference areas to utilize, out of our standard office areas, as larger Covid distancing areas to meet clients.

The iLobby system was also put into use in the Lincoln and Omaha offices and is being used as an alert system for the officer that their client has arrived for an appointment and also as a Covid screening tool.

- VIII. Lifetime Sex Offender Data – Board Member Virgil Patlan
We have 66 lifetime sex offenders. Member Patlan is wondering locations of offenders and mentioned the desire to do some changes with how these clients are handled which would include the legislature.
- IX. Legislative Communication – Board Member Robert Twiss
Member Robert Twiss requests to defer to October meeting.
- X. Board of Parole Rules and Policies – Board Member Robert Twiss
Member Robert Twiss requests to defer to October meeting.
- XI. Legislative Recap – Robert Twiss / Nicole Miller
Covid did interrupt the session so there was a period of time when there was no movement on the part of the legislature. Most of the bills that we were watching were indefinitely postponed. LB912 would have provided routine video

conferencing testimony but that was changed to only effect civil matters. LB1004 was vetoed by the Governor.

- XII. AG Report / Inquiry 17-005 - Robert Twiss
Member Robert Twiss requests to defer to October meeting.
- XIII. Board of Parole Staff Member Interactions – Robert Twiss
Member Robert Twiss requests to defer to October meeting.
- XIV. Board of Parole pre-meeting packets – Robert Twiss
Member Robert Twiss voiced a desire to have handout materials in advance of this meeting and asked the remainder of this agenda item discussion be deferred to next meeting. Chair Rosalyn Cotton reported that materials were distributed by email from Ms. Miller.
- XV. Board Member Round Table / Table Talk

Board Member Virgil Patlan would like to really move to look for a different location for the Omaha office. Presented idea to look at a committee to review the prospects.

Member Robert Twiss mentioned that they have had discussions (Table Talk) with the other Board Members in the past. Ms. Miller brought up that the Board must be mindful that of the Open Meetings Act if there is a quorum. Member Virgil Patlan added the information that he felt we should wait for any major changes until business is back to normal from COVID.

A motion was made by Chair Rosalyn Cotton and seconded by Member Virgil Patlan that the use Table Talk forum decision be postponed until after COVID 19. There was additional discussion added by Member Robert Twiss regarding the availability of conference room space, Chair Rosalyn Cotton added that members do need to be in office for participation in Table Talk forum, Vice Chair Layne Gissler likes current format without Table Talks and Member Mark Langan agreed.

Motion Carried - Vote: 4 - 1 Voting -

Chair Rosalyn Cotton	Yes
Vice Chair Layne Gissler	Yes
Member Virgil Patlan	Yes
Member Robert Twiss	No
Member Mark Langan	Yes

- XVI. Announce Next Board Business Meeting: - The next meeting is scheduled as October 6, 2020 at 2:30 in location to be announced.

- XVII. Adjourn:

Chair Rosalyn Cotton announced the meeting adjourned at 3:12pm.