

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

January 28, 2020  
2:30pm

The business meeting convened at 2:30 p.m. on December 17, 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; Julie Micek, Director of Supervision and Services; and Sue Olson, Administrative Assistant II – Recorder. Also present was LaVon Stennis.

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 January 21, 2020; and notice of publication was placed in the Lincoln Journal Star on January 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 Vice Chair Layne Gissler and seconded by Board Member Mark Langan to approve the agenda and the business meeting minutes from December 17, 2019. 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. LaVon Stennis from RECONNECT came to speak before the Board regarding some concerns with recent decisions regarding parolees. Presented case was an individual that had worked in the community and a lot of the process was completed regarding housing and he was not granted parole. Ms. Stennis's concern was how much weight the victim's impact statement had effected that decision. The Board discussed some of their process and it was determined that other factors come into the decision as well and it is all of the information that the Board has available that determines the decision and the Board weighs the compliance of the client. The Board encouraged Ms. Stennis to attend some hearings and help with instructions for how to best help the individuals that will be coming to up for a hearing and how to best provide the information needed.

VI. Demonstration of Electronic files – Jennifer Miller  
This agenda item was deferred.

VII. Legislative Update – Board Member Robert Twiss  
Board Member Mr. Twiss reviewed his concerns regarding staff of Parole speaking to members of the Legislature. It was discussed that to be speaking as a representative of Parole the topic would need to be presented in advance and approved by the Legislative Committee, if not then the staff member could only speak personally. Board Member Mr. Twiss proposed that there be a review of the procedure to insure that it is clearly stated that any contact or testimony must be reviewed by the Board prior.

Regarding Legislative bills, no progress regarding Bills from last year have had any progress in the legislative process. Several bills were mentioned and Ms. Miller will be creating a spreadsheet to provide an update of the status of various bills of interest.

VIII. Board Member Round Table  
It was announced that a date for confirmation for Board Member Mark Langan has been set.

IX. Announce Next Board Business Meeting: - The next meeting is scheduled as February 25, 2020 in Conference room A.

X. Adjourn:

Chair Rosalyn Cotton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:42pm and it was seconded by Member Mark Langan. Motion carried 5 - 0 Voting -

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