Minutes for the GOSV quarterly commission meeting held on Thursday, March 9, 2023.

The meeting was held in person with an option for virtual. Commissioners present were John Palinski, Molly Hilligoss, Josh Pederson, Matthew Forrest, Sadiq Ali, Arundhati Rao, Matt McKinney, Rebeccah Henry, Eliza Carney, Candyce Harris, Victoria Lanier.

Staff present: Samelia Okpodu-Pyuzza, Joy McGinnis, Marnie Kenefick, Noah Halt, Tyler Groves.

The meeting was officially called to order at 9:50am by Chairman, John Palinski.

The audit spanning 2016-2019 is finally over.

Governor Moore created the Department of Service and Civil Engagement which we think our commission will ultimately sit within.

We are in the final year of the 2021-2023 State Service Plan and thinking about this plan, future plans and numerical targets.

Mid-year conversations with commissioners.

Reminding commissioners to log in hours.

Several commissions are ending their term: Lynn, John N., David Slaughter

Goal - make commissioner lives more predictable and meaningful.

Ty spoke about Americorps Work.

John Palinski’s goals: GOSV staff sustainability - burnout is too fast.

Conversations included:

* In person focus - more engagement; encouraging commissioners to attend in person
* UMB and Towson were great!
* Build relationships with Community Colleges. We need students thinking about community colleges as options and we need community colleges to consider Americorps members - consider hosting a service site.
* May 11th meeting will be at Chesapeake College. Molly was asked to assist making this connection.
* Montgomery college
* Dec 7th - CCBC
* Brian Pham agreed to replace Molly Hilligoss as secretary to finish out her term. Vote was unanimous.

October Commission minutes were approved.

Samelia - Executive Director, presented to the commission. Due to the audit previously mentioned, she was called to testify at the General Assembly. The testimony was read at the G.A. It is public record and can be downloaded and read at Commissioner leisure. In short, a plan to track grant timesheets and gift in kind documentation has been put into place. Approve grant timesheet first, then work time sheet..

Cash Match in the Governor’s budget needs to be a priority.

Budget hearings were supportive and the Moore transition is going well and more supportive of service.

Committee Reports:

Volunteer & Events Committee: Sadiq, Lauren and Candyce

* Thanked Tyler Groves, GOSV Liaison.
* We need to ensure we have visual representation at events.
* We need branding material after go-ahead after transition limbo.
* 2 more events coming with details to follow - Annual Events - Governor’s Service Awards, Youth Service Awards

Public Policy - Aru & Chris

* Trying to make connections with the transition team
* It’s been very difficult but a zoom meeting has been scheduled. Samelia is building relationships.

Discussion about Moore focus on a service year with Maryland Corps members earning $15 per hour. Molly asked a question about the impact on Americorps since the stipend is not a living wage and that is a barrier for some people wanting to serve.

JEDI - Jerome presented the report out. Looking at the framework that Americorps has already created (5 pillars), rather than trying to re-create initiatives/priorities. This committee of 3 people are raising questions to ask. It is relevant for these questions to be part of the grants process.

There were technology issues at this point in the presentation. With the secretary of the commission attending virtually, without access to slides, and only audio recording available following the meeting, there is information missing.

The meeting ended with a presentation from Equity Now Inc and Legends Charter School by Makiese DeVose, program manager.

It would be helpful for these minutes for the slides to be provided to the secretary of the Commission in order to fill in any gaps.

Submitted by Molly Hilligoss.