

Volunteer Tennessee Commission  
Franklin Marriott Cool Springs, Franklin Room, 700 Cool Springs Blvd., Franklin, TN 37067  
March 9, 2026

Members in Attendance (in person underlined): Chairing: Jason Scott\*, Destiny Brown\*, Kim Carpenter Drake\*, Stephanie Davis\*, Nathan Farnor\*, Amy Gilliland\*, Katie Goforth\*, Rebecca Henderson\*, Andrea Hill\*, James Hoggard\*, Greg Lyles\*, Tracy Van de Vate\*, Amy Walter\*, Betty White\*, Crista Whitney\* (TDOE), Eileen Wollam\*, LaShan Dixon (TDH), D'Shonta Gleeton (TDCS), Adam Jarvis (F&A), Nestor Reyes (TDLWD), Nancy Scheline (TDEC), Patti Smith (AmeriCorps), Jessica Youngblom (TDMHSAS)

Members not in Attendance: George Bove\*, Suzanne Carr (TDHS), Holly Jones\*, Heidi Leming (TBR), Lisette Lopez\*, Lee Moten\*, Terry Silver\*, Evon Wood\*, VACANT (TDM) (TDSHS) (UT)

Staff: Anthony Bennett, Neelam Gupta, Lizzy Lemieux, Jim Snell

Quorum Count: 16 (14 in-person) of 22 appointed (11 is quorum). (\*) indicates voting member.

- I. Jason Scott called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m. He shared the agenda and purpose for the meeting. Jason said that he would soon be leaving the role of CAC Knox County to transition to staff for Volunteer Tennessee.
- II. Commissioners introduced themselves.
- III. Patti Smith, the new representative for AmeriCorps Agency on the Commission, gave an update on AmeriCorps:
  - There are some recent renovations and policy changes;
  - Agency will make Formula awards by April 1, and Formula instructions have been sent out.
  - AmeriCorps in Action: AmeriCorps serving America. Toolkit information kit is being sent out.
- IV. Friends of Volunteer Tennessee report (James Hoggard)
  - A. Friends met yesterday; constantly updating FB page; encouraged Commission members to visit FB page and to like.
  - B. License plates' initiative not successful so the plate has been converted to a novelty plate.
  - C. Application for \$10,000 grant; requirement is that we have matching funds. Anonymous doner is matching. Money will be directed to Rainy Day fund.
  - D. Asking members of the Commission to make donations; Network for Good.
- V. Director's Report (Jim Snell)
  - A. Funding Process: Tight timeline that will impact several things:
    - 1) Timeline itself is delayed.
    - 2) Will also impact Formula decision for May meeting.
  - B. Information about Site Visits, in person or virtually, will be coming out soon.
  - C. New staff person: Jason Scott, Community Engagement and Outreach Manager, will enable us to have staff in 3 major areas, W, M, E.
  - D. Day on the Hill: April 1: important for us to know who can attend.

## VI. Quorum Check (Betty White)

Roll Call indicated a quorum; 16 of 22 were present (14 in person, 2 Webex).

## VII. Commission Business

### A. Approval of Minutes of November 7, 2025 Commission meeting.

Jason asked for any additions or corrections to the minutes in addition to changing Amy Walter as present.

Motion to approve: Andrea Hill; Second: Eileen Wollam.

Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

### B. Update on AmeriCorps Funding Process (Jim Snell)

National Competitive Process in process (AmeriCorps makes that decision). Once finished, if a program not selected for Competitive funding, it drops back into TN Formula portfolio. The Commission decides how Formula money is spent.

We will not know results of National Competitive Process until mid-June (usually happens by mid-May so that Commission can make Formula decision at the May meeting).

Options:

1) Full commission meeting in June after we know Competitive results to make the Formula decision; in person/virtual/hybrid;

Or

2) Executive Committee can make that decision. (Public meeting; any Commissioner can attend).

Question: With Option 2: will we continue with May meeting and separate meeting also in June?

Yes, Terry's preference is to have the May meeting.

Can we discuss in advance (May meeting) to let Executive Committee know Commission's preferences?

We sent 4 programs to competitive program: City Year - Memphis; Teach for America Nashville-Chattanooga, Tennessee's Community Assistance Corporation, and Memphis Teacher Residency (continuation program).

Motion by LaShan Dixon that Executive Committee make the decision; Second: D'Shonta Gleeton.

After discussion about the process, LaShan withdrew motion.

Further discussion clarified how the process works, and Eileen stated that we need to be sure we have time to review applications. We do not have to state which programs will be funded, and we don't have instructions yet. There are different ways to fund programs, and we need time to determine the best solutions.

LaShan moved to continue with the May Commission meeting, with the caveat that we are unaware of funding for the Competitive process, and authorize the Executive Committee to host a meeting at their convenience to vote on the Formula funding. Second: James Hoggard.

Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

### C. Discussion of AmeriCorps Timeline Revision (Eileen)

Eileen asked Jim to share the timeline with revisions: the biggest impact is what was already discussed that we will not have the Competitive results in May. This timeline reflects current knowledge and does reflect having a meeting in June as a place holder, but that needs to be Executive Committee meeting around mid-June.

Eileen made a motion that we approve the timeline presented to the Commission with the caveat that the June meeting will be an Executive Committee meeting open to the entire Commission and that some dates are likely to change when we receive updated changes from AmeriCorps. Second: Andrea Hill.

Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

#### D. Committee Reports

##### 1. Board Development: Greg Lyles

- a. Discussion of location for the fall retreat; Memphis was selected with a Commission vote; Andrea said she'll help plan and host.
- b. The Committee is asking each Commission to submit a current bio for the website, including the region where the Commissioner lives.
- c. Need for Vice Chair since Jason is transitioning to Volunteer Tennessee staff. Application will be sent to commissioners to return so that we can fill the position at the May meeting. In the past the Vice Chair typically becomes Chair. This is a 6-month term. Officers to be elected every year.

##### 2. Communications Committee: Rebecca Henderson did not have a report because the committee has not had the opportunity to meet.

##### 3. Foundations of Service: Destiny Brown

- a. Destiny thanked everyone for attending and helping at the GVSA; there was lots of good energy, special thanks to Christa for speaking and Candace for running two events back-to-back. Still there are areas to look at and improve.
- b. LaShan is still co-chairing the Committee.

##### 4. Grants Committee: Eileen Wollam

- a. Several Committee members are getting ready to review applications. Eileen asked that everyone review grant applications as a learning experience to gain more understanding.
- b. Volunteer Generation Fund notice of funding opportunity should come out in the next couple months.

##### 5. Strategic Partnerships: Nathan Farnor

- a. Structurally separating Strategic Partnerships and Communications.
- b. Corporate Social Purpose: happening right now (VT Conference); wonderful turnout. Heavy emphasis on expanding in East Tennessee State University: hosting event in Spring. Funding: CSP Network does not have a budget and has plans in place to sponsor; decided not to go to dues but sponsorships.
- c. Want to add financial officer to their team.
- d. Big Priority: Data Collection; what kind of volunteerism and how spending is utilized.
- e. Interest in being more strategic in how corporations are utilized during disasters. Nathan will be reaching out to Don Sowers.
- f. Road Show is happening.
- g. TN Conference on Volunteerism and Service-Learning: what does it look like in the future? (registration today 70)

VIII. Public Comment: Jason asked if there were any requests for public comments. No one from the public attended the meeting in person or online. No public comments were made.

#### IX. Wrap up

##### A. Day on the Hill: April 1.

- B. May 15: Commission Meeting.
- C. Evaluation QR Code and link for evaluation, Travel Form.
- D. Because of the amendment in the minutes for November, minutes will be revised and sent to Betty for signature.

X. Andrea Hill made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Second: Destiny Brown. Jason adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Approved: Betty White  
Secretary

Date: 05/15/26

Meeting Minutes prepared by Betty White, Secretary