



VIRGINIA PAROLE BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

APPROVED February 26, 2025

REGULAR MEETING: January 29, 2025

LOCATION: Meeting conducted electronically and in person with Board Members and designated staff, assembled at 6900 Atmore Drive, Richmond, Virginia.

PRESIDING: The Honorable Patricia West, Chair

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: The Honorable Patricia West, Chair
Lloyd Banks, Vice Chairman
Michelle Dermeyer, Board Member
Samuel Boone, Board Member
C. Phillips Ferguson, Board Member

BOARD STAFF PRESENT: Tracy Schlagel, Parole Board Administrator
Tina Bowen, Parole Examiner
Cindy Yadav, Victim Input Coordinator
Shirley Smith, Victim Input Assistant

GUESTS PRESENT: Douglas Hall

CALL TO ORDER

The Honorable Patricia West, Chair called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

ESTABLISHMENT OF MAJORITY

Chair West determined that all members of the Board were present.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda was initiated by Vice Chairman Banks, with a second by Board Member Boone. The agenda was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Upon motion by Board Member Dermeyer, with a second by Board Member Boone, the minutes of the October 9, 2024, meeting were unanimously approved as written.

PAROLE CONSIDERATIONS

Chair West provided an explanation of the change to § 53.1-136 of the *Code of Virginia* effective July 1, 2024, which requires a public meeting be convened to conduct the final deliberation and vote regarding whether the Board will grant parole to a prisoner.

Douglas Hall, #1407789

Mr. Hall is being considered for Geriatric Conditional Release.

Chair West provided an overview of Mr. Hall's circumstances and period of incarceration.

Chair West explained to Mr. Hall that although not required by *Code*, he had the opportunity to make a statement to the Parole Board. Mr. Hall provided a statement.

Chair West provided the Board members an opportunity to ask questions of Mr. Hall. Ms. Dermeyer presented some questions to which Mr. Hall responded. Chair West acknowledged a victim of one of Mr. Hall's offenses who provided input regarding the potential release. Chair West then allowed Mr. Hall an opportunity to respond.

Chair West then called upon each member to give their vote and reason(s) for their vote.

Chair West – Grant, based on the fact that Mr. Hall did not have any felony criminal record before these offenses (age 45 at the time of the offense) and has remained infraction free throughout his incarceration with both the State and the Federal System, a stable release plan, and his release would be compatible with public safety.

Vice Chairman Banks – Grant, based on Mr. Hall's demonstrated rehabilitation, stable release plan, and his release is compatible with public safety.

Board Member Boone – Grant, based on Mr. Hall's stable release plan, and his release is compatible with public safety.

Board Member Ferguson – Grant, while recognizing the impact of Mr. Hall's crimes on the victims, he has served 20+ years in prison. Mr. Ferguson also based his grant vote on Mr. Hall's release being compatible with public safety, he has been infraction free for 24 months, his release is compatible with public safety, he has a stable release plan, he has had no prior felonies, and he has served sufficient time in prison.

Ms. Dermeyer – Grant, based on Mr. Hall's excellent institution adjustment, release compatible with public safety, and a stable release plan.

Final votes to grant geriatric conditional release were unanimous.

Chair West congratulated Mr. Hall, as the decision to grant geriatric conditional release was unanimous. She then reminded him that he must continue to remain of good behavior throughout the re-entry process, as any infraction could put his release in jeopardy. Mr. Hall would also be provided conditions upon his release.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

Chair West informed the public of a change that had been made in CORIS (Corrections Information System) handling the Board voting of all cases in which the candidate for parole was convicted of 1st degree homicide and given a life sentence. This change was implemented by a former Board and the current Board was not advised of the new voting process until it was too late to reverse this action. The modifications implemented in CORIS shut off voting on a 1st degree homicide/life case after receiving two not grant votes. This allowed the cases to be certified without a minimum of three votes, which is required by Board policies.

Chair West stated that the current Board submitted a change request to the project developers that would reverse the voting change made by the former Board. The change will ensure that a minimum of three votes will be made on these cases. Chair West informed the Board that the change request will not go into effect for several months. She stated that until the system issue is resolved, prior to the certification of a murder/life case after two votes, a third Board member will be notified to review the case and cast a vote for a decision. The Board member assigned to the case will conduct a review and record their vote and reasons utilizing the Board Notes section of CORIS. Chair West stated case will not be certified until there are a minimum of three votes recorded in CORIS.

Chair West concluded the meeting by explaining that technical difficulties prevented her from calling the meeting to order at 1 PM as scheduled. She added that only discussion during the delay was how the Board would proceed with the meeting. No other public business occurred.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion made by Vice Chair Banks and seconded by Mr. Boone, the meeting was adjourned at 2:39 p.m.