



VIRGINIA PAROLE BOARD

**MEETING MINUTES**

REGULAR MEETING: March 19, 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 Patrica West, Chair  
Lloyd Banks, Vice Chairman  
Michelle Dermyer, Board Member  
Samuel Boone, Board Member  
C. Phillips Ferguson, Board Member

BOARD STAFF PRESENT: Tina Bowen, Chief Parole Examiner  
Colleen Maxwell, Legal Services Specialist  
Cindy Yadav, Victim Input Coordinator

GUESTS PRESENT: Barry Jackson  
William Ellis  
Harry Traynham

CALL TO ORDER

The Honorable Patrica West, Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 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 Board Member Dermyer with a second by Vice Chairman Banks. The agenda was approved unanimously.

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.

Barry Jackson, #1019265

Mr. Jackson was considered for Discretionary Parole.

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

Chair West provided the Board members an opportunity to ask questions of Mr. Jackson.

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

**Chair West – Not Grant**, based on the crimes he committed, the permanent injury to the victim, his substance use issues, and institutional behavior.

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

**Board Member Boone – Grant**, based on his release being compatible with public safety and age at the time of the offense.

**Board Member Ferguson – Grant**, based on examiner's recommendation, institutional adjustment, length of time served, age at offense and his role during the offense, and release compatible with public safety.

**Ms. Dermeyer – Not Grant**, based on his institutional infraction and that he should serve more time on his sentence.

**Final votes to grant discretionary parole were three in favor and two opposed.**

Chair West congratulated Mr. Jackson, as the majority of members voted to grant parole. She then reminded him that he must remain of good behavior throughout the re-entry process, as any infraction could put his release in jeopardy. Mr. Jackson would also be provided conditions upon his release.

William Ellis, #1047095

Mr. Ellis was considered for both Discretionary Parole and Geriatric Conditional Release, as his meets eligibility criteria for both.

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

Chair West provided the Board members an opportunity to ask questions of Mr. Ellis.

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

**Chair West – Grant**, as Mr. Ellis has been infraction free for the last three years and his release is compatible with public safety. She added zero tolerance for illegal drug use and counseling as conditions of parole.

**Vice Chairman Banks – Grant**, based on Mr. Ellis' release being compatible with public safety, his remaining infraction free for 24+ months, his stable release plan, and his demonstrated rehabilitation.

**Board Member Boone – Grant**, based on demonstrated rehabilitation, a stable release plan, and his release being compatible with public safety.

**Board Member Ferguson – Grant**, based on last three years' behavior in the institution, his having addressed his problem with drugs, his stable release plan, and his release being compatible with public safety.

**Ms. Dermeyer – Grant**, based on demonstrated rehabilitation, his institutional adjustment, a stable release plan, and his release being compatible with public safety.

**Final votes to grant discretionary parole were unanimous.**

Chair West congratulated Mr. Ellis, as the decision to grant parole 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. Ellis would also be provided conditions upon his release.

Harry Traynham, #1154809

Mr. Traynham was considered for Discretionary Parole.

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

Chair West provided the Board members an opportunity to ask questions of Mr. Traynham.

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

**Chair West – Grant**, based on Mr. Traynham's age at his offense, his demonstrated rehabilitation, release compatible with public safety, and his remaining infraction free for 24+ months. Judge West informed Mr. Traynham that upon initial polling, she was not going to grant parole; however, Mr. Traynham's testimony changed her mind. She added that she believes he is a different person today than at the time of his offense.

**Vice Chairman Banks – Grant**, based on Mr. Traynham's stable release plan, his age at the time of the offense, his excellent institutional adjustment, and his demonstrated rehabilitation.

**Board Member Boone – Grant**, based on demonstrated rehabilitation, a stable release plan, and his release being compatible with public safety.

**Board Member Ferguson – Grant**, based on the belief that Mr. Traynham is a different person today than at the time of the offense, the fact that his codefendant was already paroled and that Mr. Traynham was the driver and not the shooter, his age at the offense, demonstrated rehabilitation, excellent institutional adjustment, infraction free for 24 months, significant community support, no victim opposition, stable release plan, and successful participation in correctional programs.

**Ms. Dermyer – Grant**, based on demonstrated rehabilitation, his remaining infraction free, his release being compatible with public safety, and his successful participation in correctional and vocational programs.

**Final votes to grant discretionary parole were unanimous.**

Chair West congratulated Mr. Traynham, as the decision to grant parole 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. Traynham would also be provided conditions upon his release.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### **Parole Board Personnel Discussion**

The following was offered as a motion by Vice Chairman Banks with a second by Mr. Boone:

I move that the Board go into closed session pursuant to § 2.2-3711(A)(1) for the purpose of discussion of the assignment, appointment, promotion, or performance of employees of the Board.

Upon motion of Mr. Banks with a second by Mr. Boone, the Board reconvened at 3:36 PM. The motion was as follows:

I move that the Board reconvene our open session having concluded a closed session to discuss personnel matters of employee(s) of the Board. I further move that the individual members of this Board certify that during the closed session, the Board limited its discussion to matters lawfully exempt from the public meeting requirements and identified in the closed session motion and that the recorder take role.

All members of the Board certified the closed session discussion.

#### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Upon motion by Vice Chairman Banks, with a second by Board Member Boone, the minutes of the February 26, 2025 meeting were unanimously approved as written.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion made by Vice Chairman Banks and seconded by Mr. Boone, the meeting was adjourned at 3:38 p.m. The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for April 9, 2025.

DRAFT