



Alameda County Veterans Affairs Commission

Special Meeting Minutes

Date: October 18th, 2021

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Location: Virtual (Zoom Meeting)

Meeting Called to order at 10:02am by Chair Steven Johnson.

Salute Colors-in-Place

Minute of Silence for MIA POW

Commissioner's Role Call: Eugene Cota(absent), Raymond Will(absent), Baqar Rizvi, Steven Johnson, Diane Williamson, Fred Jaffin, Luis Diaz, Ethel Gilmore, Felix Guillory(absent), Ronald Parshall(absent), Keisuke "Kasey" Warner, Greg Owens, Michael Gilmore, Nate Harrison(absent), James "Skip" Phair, Ronald Forbes.

Staff Present: Clinton Taxdahl, Tamyra Simpson, Mariana Austin, Yolanda Newton

Motion to approval of Minutes for the 09/20/2021 Meeting, 09/24/2021 Special Meeting, and 10/1/2021 Meeting as read:

- (M) Owens
 - (S) Williamson
- Approved.

Public Comments: None

Staff Comments: None

Correspondence: None

Guest Speaker:

1. Mark Walker, Associate Director of Swords to Plowshare: Mr. Walker did a presentation talking about the history of the organization and services offered to veterans.

Subcommittee Reports

1. Membership: Steven Johnson, Ronald Parshall & Luis Diaz
 - a. Chair Johnson reviewed the roster to ensure information was accurate. The commission currently has:
 - Fifteen (15) voting commissioners
 - Five (5) openings

- One (1) commissioner in the process of resigning.
- One (1) commissioner in the process of being removed due to absences.

b. Motion to ratify the removal of Commissioner Eugene Cota

- (M) Rizvi
- (S) Owens

Approved.

Commissioner Cota will be notified of the Commission's decision. They have 10 days to appeal the decision to the Board of Supervisors.

2. Finance Sub-committee – Commissioner Guillory (**2 vacancies**)

Motion to donate \$500 to the USS Hornet Foundation.

- (M) Jaffin
- (S) Williamson

Approved.

3. Bylaws Sub-committee (**2 vacancies**)

- a. None – Bylaws still pending revision by County Counsel.

4. Outreach Sub-committee – Commissioner Williamson (**1 vacancy**)

- a. None

5. Veterans Day Observance Ad-hoc Subcommittee – Commissioner Jaffin

- a. Breakfast for Veteran Commission Commissioners: The event was held at the Fremont Niles Veterans Building. There were over 40 people in attendance. Commissioner Valle indicated that he intends for the event to be held annually on the first Saturday after Veterans Day.

- b. USS Hornet Veterans Day event: event was held at USS Hornet Museum, and it lasted about an hour.

Motion to discharge the Veterans Day Observance Ad-hoc Subcommittee:

- (M) Rizvi
- (S) Jaffin

Approved.

6. Staff – Clinton Taxdahl, Veteran Services Officer

- a. 4 vacancies for VSR
- b. Temporary Hiring of VSR in the upcoming weeks

7. Event(s) Report Summary

- a. Events attended by Commissioner Forbes: Dublin Rotary Luncheon for Veterans, Veterans in the Stockman's Park, Breakfast for Veteran Commissioners sponsored by Supervisor Valle.

- b. Commissioner Diaz attended the San Leandro Post 117's Veterans Day Observance

- c. Commissioner Owens attended the American Legion Alameda Post 647's Veterans Day Observance. The event was done by joint efforts by Post 647, Post 9, and Alameda Chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America.

8. Nomination Subcommittee for the 2022 Term – Commissioners Rizvi, Warner, and Harrison

- a. Nomination(s) for Chairperson: Steve Johnson
- b. Nomination(s) for Vice Chairperson: Nate Harrison

Motion to suspend the rules to do white ballot the vote for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson:

- (M) Phair
 - (S) Diaz
- Approved.

Motion to vote by acclamation to elect Chairperson and Vice Chairperson:

- (M) Diaz
 - (S) Phair
- Approved.

We have by acclamation Chairperson Steve Johnson and Vice Chairperson Nate Harrison.

Agenda Items:

- 1. Letter Supporting NBVC-COL Charles Young Promotion Campaign
 - a. Commissioners Rizvi and Owens withdrew the motion to table/ question the issue.
Motion to lay the question of the Support Letter to the Oakland City Council and Mayor Libby Schaff to rename the streets of the army base until the January 2022 meeting.
 - (M) Williamson
 - (S) PhairApproved.
- 2. Motion & second to accept and adopt the recommendation of the Health Care Services Agency Director's for continued social distancing at all Board of Supervisor meeting and Board of Supervisor Committee meetings IAW HCSA memorandum dated September 23, 2021 and California Legislative Assembly Bill #361.
 - a. A motion is not needed for this issue, as these are guidelines from the Board of Supervisors.

Announcements

- 1. Mentors needed for Veterans Treatment Court.
- 2. Toys-for-Tots Drive By Drop-off: November 19th and 20th, 10am – 5pm. | Alameda Marine Corp Reserve Base NOSC Alameda, 2144 Clement Ave, Alameda, CA.

Meeting adjourned at 11:54am.

Next Meeting January 24th at 10:00am via Zoom