

Carlos Gonzalez, Chair  
Mike Shaknovich, Vice Chair  
Ryan Antes, Commissioner  
Sylvia Contreras, Commissioner



Juanita Doplemore, Commissioner  
Ricky Fernandez, Commissioner  
Gustavo Orozco, Commissioner  
Josh Smith, Commissioner  
Kiniko Willingham, Commissioner

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## FINISHED AGENDA AND DRAFT MINUTES

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

### 2. ROLL CALL

**Commissioners** Ryan Antes, Sylvia Contreras, Juanita Doplemore, Ricky  
**Present:** Fernandez, Gustavo Orozco, Josh Smith, Mike Shaknovich and  
Carlos Gonzalez

**Commissioners** Kiniko Willingham

**Excused:**

3. 17-019VA Recommendation to approve the minutes for Veterans Affairs  
Commission meeting on September 13, 2017.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Orozco, seconded by  
Commissioner Antes, to approve the minutes. The motion  
carried:**

**Yes:** 8 - Ryan Antes, Sylvia Contreras, Juanita Doplemore, Ricky  
Fernandez, Gustavo Orozco, Josh Smith, Mike Shaknovich  
and Carlos Gonzalez

**Excused:** 1 - Kiniko Willingham

### 4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

5. 17-020VA Recommendation to discuss Veterans Day celebration update - Juanita Doplemore and Gus Orozco

The Veterans Day Celebration is 30 days out. The core activities are: the 21st annual Parade from approximately 10 to noon, Vets Fest, in Houghton Park, which connects Veterans to resources, and an open Street Fair from noon to 3:00 p.m. Event highlights include Coast Guard fly-bys, food trucks, vendors, two concert stages, a Kid Zone, bar garden and much more. In addition, there will be a ribbon cutting for the Veterans Valor Plaza in Houghton Park.

The Commissioners' participation in the celebration, in both the Parade and the ribbon cutting, has been requested. The Commissioners discussed several possibilities for participating in the event, including having a table at Vets Fest or as part of the open Street Fair, and their availability. A number of Commissioners will join Commissioner Doplemore's entry in the Parade as well as attend the ribbon cutting. The Commissioners were encouraged to reach out to their respective Council members to ask them to participate.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Doplemore and seconded by Commissioner Orozco to participate in the Veterans Day Celebration by having a table at the event for the purpose of being visible as a Commission and passing out business cards with the new logo and the Facebook group URL.**

**Yes:** 8 - Ryan Antes, Sylvia Contreras, Juanita Doplemore, Ricky Fernandez, Gustavo Orozco, Josh Smith, Mike Shaknovich and Carlos Gonzalez

**Excused:** 1 - Kiniko Willingham

6. 17-021VA Recommendation per Marketing and Website Committee Update - Ryan Antes and Mike Shaknovich

The Commission reviewed two logo designs for the Facebook group page and selected the version which features an eagle in the center holding American flags. Commissioner Shaknovich will work with his designer to make minor modifications as suggested by Commissioners who also discussed options for a cover photo. Staff reported that the Commission will also have a landing page, which will be linked to the Facebook group page. Staff will work on content for the landing page and share it with the Marketing and Website Committee.

**This VA-Agenda Item was received and filed.**

7. 17-022VA Recommendation to discuss and appoint Subcommittees - Carlos Gonzalez

Chair Gonzalez distributed a list of proposed Subcommittees and Subcommittee Chairs and Co-Chairs. The four subcommittees, aligned with the Commission's goals are: Veteran Economic Development, Veteran Awareness and Recognition, Veteran Information, Resources and Social Support and Under-Represented Veteran Groups. The Commission discussed the item and recommended minor changes.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Ryan to approve the proposed Subcommittees with modifications and seconded by Commissioner Orozco.**

**Yes:** 8 - Ryan Antes, Sylvia Contreras, Juanita Doplemore, Ricky Fernandez, Gustavo Orozco, Josh Smith, Mike Shaknovich and Carlos Gonzalez

**Excused:** 1 - Kiniko Willingham

8. 17-023VA Recommendation to discuss public awareness around effects of 4th of July fireworks on Veterans - Sylvia Contreras

Commissioner Contreras led a discussion about how fireworks negatively effect Veterans because they sound like gunfire. The issue of illegal 4th of July fireworks and how it is handled by the City and within the various Council districts was discussed. Could more be done? Chair Orozco proposed that the Veteran Awareness and Recognition Subcommittee consider this issue and make recommendations accordingly.

**This VA-Agenda Item was received and filed.**

9. 17-024VA Recommendation to discuss Annual Report - Gina Overholt

Commission staff proposed that the Annual Report be kept simple. Staff will reach out to the Commission for ideas and input and produce a draft of the report by early November. Staff bios and photos may be requested for both the Annual report and the Commission's Facebook group page.

**This VA-Agenda Item was received and filed.**

## 10. STAFF REPORT

The Commission was offered the opportunity to participate in Beach Streets on October 28 as part of the Health Department's table at the event. The Commission determined that it would rather participate in the Veterans Day Celebration on November 11, either by attending the ribbon cutting for Veterans Valor Plaza in Houghton Park and/or walking or riding in the Veterans Day Parade.

## **11. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The dedication of the Harvell Brothers Memorial Bench at Ocean and Orizaba streets will take place on Friday, October 13. U.S. VETS' 10th Annual "Honoring Those Who Served" fundraising luncheon will take place on November 3 at the Hyatt Regency Long Beach. The Health Department's drive-through flu vaccination clinic will take place on Thursday, October 19. Commissioner Orozco announced Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles's Vets Build event on Friday, November 11, here in Long Beach. Through Cal State Long Beach Veterans, he is organizing a contingent of Veterans to participate in the build. He invited the Commissioners to contact him if they want to participate. Commissioner Doplemore proposed that the December Commission meeting include a holiday celebration, and, after a brief discussion, agreed to play a lead role in coordinating this endeavor. Next month's meeting, on November 8, will take place at the Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center (formerly the VA Long Beach) in Building 165, Room 214.

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Gonzalez moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m.