

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

FINISHED AGENDA & MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Also in attendance: Gina Overholt, Commission staff, Ginger Lee, Collective Impact and Operations Bureau Manager, and Christina Watkins, member of the public.

17-030VA Recommendation to approve the minutes for Veterans Affairs
Commission meeting on November 8, 2017

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

Yes: 9 - Ryan Antes, Sylvia Contreras, Juanita Doplemore, Ricky
Fernandez, Gustavo Orozco, Josh Smith, Kiniko Willingham,
Mike Shaknovich and Carlos Gonzalez

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public was present but did not address the Commission.

REGULAR AGENDA

17-031VA Recommendation to discuss Veterans Strategic Plan

The Commission reviewed Vice Mayor Richardson’s memorandum (dated November 7, 2017) to the City Council on the subject of a Veterans Affairs Strategic Plan. Staff reported that the City Manager’s office requested a report on the costs, staffing impacts and timeline for completing the plan. A discussion ensued about preliminary steps to develop the plan such as researching existing plans like the Sustainability Commission’s Action Plan, engaging the Commission’s subcommittees in this effort and using the Commission’s “Purpose, Function and Goals” document to frame the discussion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Antes, seconded by Commissioner Doplemore, to agendaize this item for the next meeting and to consider creating an ad hoc Veterans Affairs Strategic Plan subcommittee. Motion carried:

Yes: 9 - Ryan Antes, Sylvia Contreras, Juanita Doplemore, Ricky Fernandez, Gustavo Orozco, Josh Smith, Kiniko Willingham, Mike Shaknovich and Carlos Gonzalez

17-032VA Recommendation to discuss subcommittees structure and operations - Carlos Gonzalez

The Commission discussed subcommittee structure and operations. Four subcommittees, each one aligned with a core Commission goal, were designated and approved at the September meeting. As specified in the Commission handbook, subcommittees are standing subcommittees with regular, ongoing business, while ad hoc committees are purpose and timeline-driven.

The Chairs and Vice Chairs are as follows: Commissioner Fernandez, Chair, and Juanita Doplemore, Vice Chair, for the economic development ad hoc subcommittee; Commissioner Orozco, Chair, and Commissioner Contreras, Vice Chair, of the awareness and recognition ad hoc subcommittee; Commissioner Shaknovich, Chair, and Commissioner Ryan, Vice Chair, of the information, resources and social support ad hoc subcommittee and Commissioner Willingham, Chair, and Commissioner Smith, Vice Chair, of the under-represented groups ad hoc subcommittee. Commission Chair Carlos Gonzalez is member-at-large for all ad hoc subcommittees.

A motion was made by Commissioner Antes, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to make the four subcommittees ad hoc subcommittees for a six-month period and to revisit this structure in June 2018; to make the terms for the chair and vice chair six months and one year, respectively; to officially designate the chairs and vice chairs of the ad hoc subcommittees, and to place the existing marketing, website and social media ad hoc subcommittee under the “Information, Resources and Social Support” ad hoc subcommittee. Motion carried:

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

No: 1 - Sylvia Contreras

17-033VA Recommendation to discuss Marketing and Website (Social Media) Update - Ryan Antes and Mike Shaknovich

Commissioner Antes and Commissioner Shaknovich reviewed the parameters for social media posts on the Facebook group page. Content must be tied to non-profit or government organizations only, and not commercial in nature. Commissioners are welcome to add content on Veterans-related activities, events and concerns. The procedure is as follows: a Commissioner posts a draft of an item to the page, staff reviews and approves the item and posts it.

A motion was made by Commissioner Antes, seconded by Commissioner Doplemore, to continue this discussion and review a revised version of the the social media parameters document at the next meeting. Motion carried:

Yes: 9 - Ryan Antes, Sylvia Contreras, Juanita Doplemore, Ricky Fernandez, Gustavo Orozco, Josh Smith, Kiniko Willingham, Mike Shaknovich and Carlos Gonzalez

17-034VA Recommendation to discuss Annual Report

A draft report will be due in January and a final report in February.

A motion was made by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Antes, to move the timeline of the annual report to start at the beginning of the calendar year. Motion carried:

Yes: 9 - Ryan Antes, Sylvia Contreras, Juanita Doplemore, Ricky Fernandez, Gustavo Orozco, Josh Smith, Kiniko Willingham, Mike Shaknovich and Carlos Gonzalez

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Santa's Workshop, a free family event for military families featuring Santa, arts and crafts, an outdoor movie screening and resources for Veterans, will take at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos on Friday, December 15, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. On Thursday, December 21, the Long Beach Homeless Coalition will hold a memorial service for those "who have died while experiencing homelessness in 2017," at 6 p.m. at Forest Lawn, Long Beach. Commissioner Willingham announced that the Arts Council of Long Beach is administrating an art program that is reaching out to Veterans. The Council wants to explore how it can work with the Veterans Commission. She will find out more information to share with the Commission in the future.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Gonzalez reminded everyone to submit agenda items for the next meeting to Commission staff at least two weeks in advance of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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