

Gustavo Orozco, Chair
Juanita Doplemore, Vice Chair
Ryan Antes, Commissioner
Sylvia Contreras, Commissioner
Ricky Fernandez, Commissioner



Carlos Gonzalez, Commissioner
Mike Shaknovich, Commissioner
Josh Smith, Commissioner
Kiniko Willingham, Commissioner

FINISHED AGENDA & MINUTES

1. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Ryan Antes, Sylvia Contreras, Carlos Gonzalez, Mike

Present: Shaknovich, Kiniko Willingham, Juanita Doplemore and Gustavo Orozco

Commissioners Ricky Fernandez and Josh Smith

Excused:

2. CALL TO ORDER

3. [18-037VA](#) Recommendation to approve minutes for the Veterans Affairs Commission meeting held Wednesday, May 09, 2018.

A motion was made by Commissioner Antes, seconded by Vice Chair Doplemore, to approve recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Ryan Antes, Sylvia Contreras, Carlos Gonzalez, Mike Shaknovich, Kiniko Willingham, Juanita Doplemore and Gustavo Orozco

Excused: 2 - Ricky Fernandez and Josh Smith

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public, Jeff Johnson, a U.S. Army Veteran, introduced himself to the Commission. He had no further comments.

REGULAR AGENDA

5. 18-038VA Recommendation to receive and file Chair Orozco's report.

Chair Orozco was pleased to see several Commissioners in attendance at the opening of the Veterans Resource Center at the Main Library on Saturday, June 9. The Resource Center, made possible by the California State Library's Veterans Connect @ The Library program, offers Veterans private study rooms, a dedicated computer and a collection of resources materials and books. Commissioner Antes had the opportunity to speak at the event. The chair also invited the Commission to participate in or otherwise support the US VETS' third Annual 5K/10K Run! Walk! Roll! fundraiser on Saturday, June 23. The seventh annual Veterans Independence Day Celebration (VIDC) will take place on Wednesday, July 4, at the Long Beach VA. Commissioners are welcome to attend with their families or to volunteer to help. Last year, meals were provided for 2,500 people, including 500 Veterans in the hospital. Planning for the 2018 Veterans Day Parade is underway. A Grand Marshall, Terry Guiley, President and CEO of American Gold Star Manor, was selected. Now, the organizers are seeking centennial Veterans (over 100 years old) to participate in the event.

This VA-Agenda Item was received and filed.

6. 18-039VA Recommendation to discuss Strategic Plan: Information, Resources & Social Support.

This discussion and interactive focused on Information, Resources & Social Support, one of the Commission's four main goals. Commissioners divided into groups of two, with each group tackling three months of the year (e.g. January, February, March), and reviewed a detailed calendar of federal, military, and Veterans-related observances, e.g. the U.S. Navy's birthday (October 13) and National Military Appreciation Month (November). Their objectives were to tie these observances to the Commission's four main goals as applicable; to evaluate and decide which calendar items were relevant or irrelevant; to determine the missing items, and to connect the items to Long Beach. For example, March is Women's History Month and March 21 is Rosie the Riveter Day; do any local Veterans organizations or other groups hold related events or activities? Commissioners reported their findings back to the group. The group agreed that the local angle - what happens here in Long Beach and in greater Los Angeles - needs to be explored more deeply. Accordingly, Commissioners

identified several local organizations and groups. Individual Commissioners volunteered to explore one or more of these organizations or groups by: directly reaching out to them, strengthening existing relationships, and staying informed by following them on social media or by other means, and promoting, participating in or otherwise supporting their activities.

This VA-Agenda Item was received and filed.

7. 18-040VA Recommendation to discuss Annual Report to Council.

Staff submitted a Council letter to agendize the presentation of the Annual Report at a future City Council meeting. Health Department staff were informed by the City Attorney's office that the ordinance related to how Boards and Commissions submit their annual reports is being revised. Annual reports are now to be submitted to the City Clerk's Office instead of the City Manager's Office. In addition, they are not to be submitted through a City Council agenda item. The Commission discussed the repercussions of the revised ordinance. The opportunity to present an annual report directly to the City Council is important as it keeps Council informed and up-to-date on the activities of the commissions they created. It also provides commissions with more visibility and strengthens the relationship between the Council and its commissions.

This VA-Agenda Item was received and filed.

8. 18-041VA Recommendation to discuss City's July 4th messaging around fireworks and Veterans with PTSD.

The Commission was not included in a recent meeting among various City departments to further discuss a campaign strategy and plan around the issue of illegal fireworks in Long Beach, including their effects on Veterans with PTSD. Staff followed up with LBFD. Commissioners, along with representatives from local Veteran-serving organizations and groups, will be at the table for a second meeting focused exclusively on the Veterans and PTSD issue scheduled for Tuesday, June 19. Staff shared several drafts of social graphics containing Veterans and PTSD images and text. Commissioners provided their input.

This VA-Agenda Item was received and filed.

9. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Chair Orozco presented former Chair Gonzalez with a plaque recognizing his year of service as the first Chair of the Veterans Commission.

10. STAFF REPORT

Staff had nothing additional to report.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No future agenda items were discussed.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Juanita Doplemore moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m.