

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
VETERANS AFFAIRS
COMMISSION MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2019
RANCHO LOS CERRITOS
4600 VIRGINIA ROAD
LONG BEACH, CA 90807, 9:00 AM**

Ricky Fernandez, Chair
Ryan Antes, Vice Chair
Sylvia Contreras, Commissioner
Juanita Doplemore, Commissioner
Carlos Gonzalez, Commissioner



Gustavo Orozco, Commissioner
Mike Shakhovich, Commissioner
Josh Smith, Commissioner

FINISHED AGENDA & MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Fernandez called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Sylvia Contreras, Carlos Gonzalez, Gustavo Orozco, Ryan Antes
Present: and Ricky Fernandez

Commissioners Mike Shakhovich and Josh Smith
Excused:

Commissioners Juanita Doplemore
Absent:

19-014VA VETERANS COMMISSION STRATEGIC PLAN DISCUSSION

The Commission reviewed analyses of data collected through a literature review and stakeholder interviews as well as a demographic analyses of the Long Beach Veterans' population. The Commission engaged in an extensive discussion and decision-making process which resulted in the selection of four core priorities (focus areas) for the Strategic Plan: access to resources and services, coordination between agencies, Veterans' strengths and assets and housing and homelessness. The Commission recognizes and appreciates all who helped make the strategic planning retreat a success, including Gina Overholt, Ginger Lee, Julie Leung, Jason Thompson, Ebony Blaine, Zeena Aljawad, Katie Balderas, Kelly Colopy, Mable Goss, Dennis Keith, Rancho Los Cerritos staff, and Melody Ngaue-Tu'uholoaki, Field Deputy for District 8 Councilmember, Al Austin.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Antes, seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez, to received and filed. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Sylvia Contreras, Carlos Gonzalez, Gustavo Orozco, Ryan Antes and Ricky Fernandez

Excused: 2 - Mike Shaknovich and Josh Smith

Absent: 1 - Juanita Doplemore

19-015VA Recommendation to approve the minutes for the Veterans Affairs Commission meeting held on March 13, 2019

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

Yes: 5 - Sylvia Contreras, Carlos Gonzalez, Gustavo Orozco, Ryan Antes and Ricky Fernandez

Excused: 2 - Mike Shaknovich and Josh Smith

Absent: 1 - Juanita Doplemore

19-016VA Recommendation to discuss employment and education panel

Commissioner Antes reported that the panel planning subcommittee met to discuss potential dates and locations for the event. Antes reached out to the American Legion Post 496 (on Parkcrest, behind Heartwell Park), which has a meeting hall with a capacity of up to 250 persons as well as parking. It is available for a suggested donation, and the Legion is willing to work with the Commission. He also suggested that the event be held there on the last Saturday of June or first Saturday in July. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Antes made a motion to hold the employment and education panel on Saturday, June 29, at the American Legion Post 496 hall, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and to draft a save the date postcard. Commissioner Gonzalez seconded. Motion carried.

Yes: 5 - Sylvia Contreras, Carlos Gonzalez, Gustavo Orozco, Ryan Antes and Ricky Fernandez

Excused: 2 - Mike Shaknovich and Josh Smith

Absent: 1 - Juanita Doplemore

COMMENTS

Members of the public were invited to address the Commission at the top of the meeting, before lunch and in the afternoon. No members of the public were in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Fernandez adjourned the meeting at 4:13 p.m.