

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

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2019
HEALTH DEPARTMENT MAIN BUILDING
2525 GRAND AVENUE, ROOM 204, 5:00 PM**

Ricky Fernandez, Chair
Ryan Antes, Vice Chair
Jesse Blanco, Commissioner
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 5:17 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Jesse Blanco, Sylvia Contreras, Carlos Gonzalez, Gustavo

Present: Orozco, Ryan Antes and Ricky Fernandez

Commissioners Juanita Doplemore, Mike Shakhovich and Josh Smith

Excused:

INTRODUCTIONS

The six Commissioners, Commission staff and additional individuals present introduced themselves. In attendance: John Oppenheim, a Veteran and long-time volunteer and advocate in the Veterans community; Adelita Lopez, a Veteran, Project Manager for the City Manager's Office's Innovation Team; Sarah Green, also a Veteran, Deputy City Attorney in the City Attorney's Office, Marlen Gudiel, an MSW student intern at Century Villages at Cabrillo, Ginger Lee, Collective Impact and Operations Bureau Manager, and Gina Overholt, Veterans Commission Coordinator.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No public comment.

19-047VA Recommendation to approve minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission meeting held on November 13, 2019

Approval of minutes is deferred to the next Commission meeting.

REGULAR AGENDA

STAFF REPORT

Commission staff reported that Health Department director Kelly Colopy reviewed the strategic plan draft and made suggestions for reorganizing the document to make it easier to read. This reorganization is under way as well as drafting a history section, introduction, profiles of local Veterans and more. A complete final draft will be circulated to the Commission in the coming weeks. Election of officers will take place in January; staff asked Commissioners to consider running for chair or vice chair.

NEW BUSINESS

A number of the city's employees are Veterans, and Adelita Lopez, Project Manager with the City Manager's Office of Civic Innovation, has begun reaching out to them. Some of the city's objectives here are to establish an email list of Veteran city employees, opportunities for these employees to network both internally and externally, and a Veteran hiring process. The first networking event will take place on January 21 with a focus on Veteran employees. In March, the focus is on the larger community with Veteran employees, the Commission and other Veteran community stakeholders invited. The city is seeking partner organizations and support for these activities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No future agenda items were discussed.

HOLIDAY POTLUCK

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Fernandez adjourned the meeting at 6:21 p.m. The next meeting is on January 8, 2020.