

Ryan Antes, Chair  
Josh Smith, Vice Chair  
Jesse Blanco, Commissioner  
Sylvia Contreras, Commissioner



Juanita Doplemore, Commissioner  
Ricky Fernandez, Commissioner  
Lance Osorio Santiago, Commissioner  
Mike Shaknovich, Commissioner

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## **FINISHED AGENDA & MINUTES**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 5:09 p.m.

### **ROLL CALL**

Also present: Isaac Romero from Mayor Garcia's office, Felicia Wieser, Gus Orozco, Stacy Sanchez, Jesse Soria, Nivardo Gonzalez and Joey King.

**Commissioners** Jesse Blanco, Juanita Doplemore, Lance Osorio Santiago, Mike  
**Present:** Shaknovich and Josh Smith

**Commissioners** Sylvia Contreras and Ryan Antes

**Excused:**

**Commissioners** Ricky Fernandez

**Absent:**

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Isaac Romero with Mayor Garcia's office spoke. The Veterans Commission and its strategic plan has the full support of the Mayor's office. Appointments to Commissions (per any vacant seats) will take place starting in June.

22-005VA Recommendation to approve minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission meeting held on March 9.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Doplemore, seconded by Commissioner Blanco, to approve recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Jesse Blanco, Juanita Doplemore, Lance Osorio Santiago,  
Mike Shaknovich and Josh Smith

**Excused:** 2 - Sylvia Contreras and Ryan Antes

**Absent:** 1 - Ricky Fernandez

22-006VA Recommendation to approve minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission meeting held on April 13.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Osorio Santiago, seconded by Commissioner Doplemore, to approve recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Jesse Blanco, Juanita Doplemore, Lance Osorio Santiago,  
Mike Shaknovich and Josh Smith

**Excused:** 2 - Sylvia Contreras and Ryan Antes

**Absent:** 1 - Ricky Fernandez

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

#### **REVIEW OF GROUP AGREEMENTS & ROLE OF COMMISSION**

The group agreements developed originally in 2018 and focused on communication and follow-through were revisited. The purpose of the Commission as described in the enabling legislation and called out in the strategic plan were also revisited. Brief discussion followed.

#### **COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

Commission Coordinator Overholt reported that the department's budget request including staffing for an Office of Veterans Support continues to gain momentum and outlined a scope of discussion per the action item on said Office.

22-007VA Recommendation to discuss Office of Veterans Support.

Commissioners reported briefly on their outreach to their respective Council members to share the plan and garner support for the Office of Veterans Support (OVS). With a focus on reaching out to local organizations to support

and advocate for OVS, the Commission reviewed a spreadsheet listing more than 30 elected officials and Veteran-serving organizations. The document dates back to 2018, when the Commission began conducting interviews as part of the strategic planning process. A "whiteboard session" followed with Commissioners revising, updating and adding onto the list. Public comment on this item engaged guests who also contributed their edits and additions. Staff will revise and re-send out the spreadsheet and follow-up with Commissioners on missing information.

The Commission could host lunch-time conversations about the plan with Veterans at places like Cal State and LB City College. A participant made an important point: many Veterans organizations are struggling to survive and thrive now because of the pandemic.

A motion was made to establish an OVS *ad hoc* committee to research, review and report back on several items. Such a committee could consider the following questions and more. How does the Office of Sustainability and the Sustainability Commission operate? What is the mission and vision of the Office? What should its initial priorities be?

**A motion was made by Commissioner Doplemore, seconded by Commissioner Osorio Santiago, to approve recommendation to establish an ad hoc subcommittee. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Jesse Blanco, Juanita Doplemore, Lance Osorio Santiago, Mike Shaknovich and Josh Smith

**Excused:** 2 - Sylvia Contreras and Ryan Antes

**Absent:** 1 - Ricky Fernandez

## **REPORT ON VETERAN BANNERS PROGRAM**

Vice Chair Smith will schedule a meeting this month, before the next Commission meeting on June 8. The banners committee includes Commissioners Smith, Shaknovich, Chair Antes and Doplemore.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Announcements included the People of the Earth Krew's run for Mental Health on May 15, which helps raise funds for Project Welcome Home's Power Breath Workshop for Veterans and their family members taking place June 1 through 5 on the Century Villages at Cabrillo campus, L.A.

Fleet Week on Memorial Day weekend at the USS Iowa, which includes a Veterans Village and resources fair, US VETS' 7th Annual 5K/10K run on June 11, which will be honoring Val Lerch this year, Oregon Health & Science University's (OSHU) firearm injury prevention research project, and the Independence Day Dog Parade in Lincoln Park on July 2.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Vice Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.