

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

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2018
HEALTH DEPARTMENT MAIN BUILDING
2525 GRAND AVENUE, ROOM 204, 5:00 PM**

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

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

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

18-015VA Recommendation to approve minutes for the Veterans Affairs
Commission meeting on February 14, 2018.

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

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

Excused: 2 - Josh Smith and Kiniko Willingham

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present.

REGULAR AGENDA

- 18-016VA Recommendation to discuss recommendations to be included in the Annual Report

Staff expressed appreciation for the Commissioners' input on recommendations to include in the Annual Report. These recommendations, by and large, are more suitable for the Veterans Strategic Plan. For this reason, staff added a single recommendation to the Annual Report: a request for funding (in the amount of \$40,000) in support of a strategic planning consultant. Discussion followed regarding the possibility of expanding the Annual Report to include a brief strategic plan containing more specific data on Veteran populations in Long Beach, more robust recommendations vetted by the Commission, and an ask for funding to support these recommendations. Submission of the report would be delayed until August. Collecting data on Veterans in our community will take time and resources as does researching and vetting potential initiatives recommended by Commissioners.

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

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

Excused: 2 - Josh Smith and Kiniko Willingham

- 18-017VA Recommendation to discuss awareness and recognition *ad hoc* subcommittee report - Commissioners Orozco and Contreras

The subcommittee will draft a memorandum to the City Manager's office to express the Commission's interest in being part of in planning discussions around the Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier renovation. The subcommittee continues to develop its partnership with Partners of Parks. It met with Jeff Row to explore the possibility of a Long Beach Killed In Action (KIA) research project, similar to one carried out by the *OC Register* a decade ago to identify all OC-connected KIA soldiers. The subcommittee recommended formalizing the Commission's participation in 2018 Veterans Day Parade well before the event and reaching out to the City Manager's office to make sure the Commission may partner with fiscal entities such as Partners of Parks to find

funding for any initiatives it proposes. The Veterans strategic plan *ad hoc* subcommittee will take on this task as such initiatives may be part of the strategic plan. Staff reminded the Commission that, with sufficient lead-time to book a room, subcommittees may hold meetings at the main Health Department building.

This VA-Agenda Item was received and filed.

18-018VA Recommendation to discuss economic development *ad hoc* subcommittee report - Commissioners Fernandez and Doplemore

Commissioner Doplemore shared with the Commission her research on the Tierney Center for Veterans Resources in Tustin. Tierney partners with Goodwill Orange County to connects Veterans seeking employment with employers, a variety of services and one-on-one support. Tierney offers a model for developing similar services here in Long Beach. The subcommittee will propose some potential dates and locations for a Veterans and employers mixer.

This VA-Agenda Item was received and filed.

18-019VA Recommendation to discuss under-represented groups *ad hoc* subcommittee report - Commissioners Willingham and Smith

Commissioners Smith and Willingham were not present at the meeting.

This VA-Agenda Item was laid over.

18-020VA Recommendation to discuss information, resources and social support *ad hoc* subcommittee report - Commissioners Shaknovich and Ryan

The subcommittee discussed the need to find the Commission's landing page and Facebook group page more easily. It is interested in expanding the number of links and resources on the landing page as well as adding a Veterans tab to the Health Department's main page to make it easier to find. A discussion followed about whether the Commission may develop its own, stand-alone website or simply use social media to accomplish its "information and clearinghouse" objectives. The emphasis, for now, is on social media.

This VA-Agenda Item was received and filed.

18-021VA Recommendation to discuss Veterans Affairs Strategic Plan - Ginger Lee

Ginger Lee, Collective Impact and Operations Bureau Manager for the Health Department, laid out a core objective for the Strategic Planning *ad hoc* subcommittee at its first meeting: to identify the methodology for developing the plan. Chair Orozco suggested that this subcommittee consist of the vice chairs of the four existing *ad hoc* subcommittees. Commission staff will propose dates for the first subcommittee meeting.

This VA-Agenda Item was received and filed.

18-022VA Recommendation to discuss U.S. VETS Education Panel - Commissioner Orozco

The Commission will co-host with U.S. VETS an education and employment panel for Veterans on Friday, May 4, at U.S. Vets Long Beach. Commissioner Orozco will moderate the panel and asked Commissioners to attend the event and to help promote it by circulating to their social networks via Facebook.

This VA-Agenda Item was received and filed.

STAFF REPORT

Staff had no additional items to report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Orozco encouraged the *ad hoc* subcommittees to continue meeting and to email him and staff (Ginger and Gina) with meeting dates and times. Commissioner Shaknovich proposed holding a future meeting at the Queen Mary.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEM IDEAS

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Orozco moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:41 p.m.