

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 FOR SPECIAL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Orozco called the Special meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Ryan Antes, Sylvia Contreras, Ricky Fernandez, Mike

Present: Shaknovich, Josh Smith, Kiniko Willingham and Gustavo Orozco

Commissioners Juanita Doplemore

Excused:

Commissioners Carlos Gonzalez

Absent:

18-060VA Recommendation to approve minutes for the Veterans Affairs
Commission meeting held on August 8, 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, Mike
Shaknovich, Josh Smith, Kiniko Willingham and Gustavo
Orozco

Excused: 1 - Juanita Doplemore

Absent: 1 - Carlos Gonzalez

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. CHAIR'S REPORT

Last night (September 18), Commission staff presented an update on its activities to City Council. The presentation, which focused on the strategic plan, went very well. Councilmember Richardson's office wants to work with the Commission on the strategic plan and may seek funding in the City's budget for at least the design of the final document. Councilmember Gonzalez expressed interest in our data analysis process and engaging the Commission (or a Commissioner) in a digital inclusion initiative her office is working on now. Councilmember Pierce expressed interest in how the Commission will address economic inclusion in the strategic plan and offered her assistance as needed.

US VETS' 11th annual "Honoring Those Who Served" luncheon on September 14, was tremendously successful with more than 300 people in attendance. Jack McDowell, a 26-year Marine Corps Veteran who was part of the first wave of African Americans to integrate the Marines, was honored for a lifetime of service. Forest Lawn will be holding an opening ceremony for its new Patriot's Chapel on the grounds of its Cypress location on October 11 from 4 to 7 p.m. Commissioners are invited to attend the opening ceremony and to contact Chair Orozco to RSVP.

2. 18-054VA Recommendation to discuss Strategic Plan - Ginger Lee, Bureau Manager, Collective Impact & Operations

Ginger Lee reviewed the group agreements, which the Commission developed at the last meeting to help guide strategic planning discussions. She reviewed the discussion at the last meeting, which focused on the need to uncover data about Veterans in Long Beach and identifying potential sources for this data. Commissioners were to reach out to these sources to determine whether they can provide access to relevant data and report back. Staff shared the Commissioners findings so far. Commissioner Contreras shared data on the Long Beach Veteran population from the 2016 American Community Survey.

Ms. Lee shared a detailed timeline with steps for developing the plan, including gathering relevant data, conducting stakeholder interviews, analyzing the data, using the data to identify strategic priorities and drafting and finalizing the plan.

The goal is to complete the strategic plan by July 2019. The Commission identified key stakeholders in the Veterans community. The Commission also reviewed and discussed some potential questions for interviews and collecting demographic data. The goal is for the Commission to complete stakeholder interviews by November 14. The Commission will discuss stakeholder interview questions in greater detail at the next meeting. In addition, stakeholder interviews will be assigned to the Commissioners.

3. 18-059VA Recommendation to discuss Long Beach Veterans Day Parade

Chair Orozco invited the Commissioners to the next planning meeting on Tuesday, September 25, at the Uptown Business Improvement District office. He will look into making arrangements for a vehicle for the Commission to ride in the parade. Staff suggested that the Commission consider having a booth at the street fair immediately following the parade. The booth may provide a place for staff and Commissioners to conduct a very simple survey of Veterans who stop by. This possibility will be further discussed at the next meeting.

4. 18-061VA Recommendation to discuss Lone Sailor Recognition Ceremony

The Veterans Commission and Partners of Parks are co-hosting the Lone Sailor Recognition Ceremony on Saturday, October 13, from 10 a.m. to noon. This event commemorates the 14th anniversary of the Lone Sailor Memorial in Long Beach and the 257th anniversary of the US Navy. Partners of Parks asked if the Commission could find a Navy or Marine Corps Veteran to speak at the ceremony. Staff asked the Commissioners to show up at the event and to help spread the word on social media.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The stakeholder discussion will continue at the next meeting. The focus will be on finalizing interview questions and assigning teams of Commissioners to carry out and complete the interviews by November 14. Staff will send out the list of stakeholders identified so far.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Orozco adjourned the meeting at 6:34.