

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



Ricky Fernandez, Commissioner
Gustavo Orozco, Commissioner
Mike Shaknovich, Commissioner

FINISHED AGENDA & DRAFT MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:05 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Guests: Sarah Green, Veteran, and Long Beach Fire Department employee and Marlen Gudiel, MSW and VA Long Beach employee.

Commissioners Sylvia Contreras, Juanita Doplemore, Gustavo Orozco, Mike

Present: Shaknovich, Josh Smith, Ryan Antes and Ricky Fernandez

Commissioners Jesse Blanco

Excused:

3. FLAG SALUTE

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Members of the public who were present did not address the Commission.

5. CHECK-IN

Each Commissioner and member of the public present introduced themselves. The Commission's Coordinator led a brief ice breaker activity.

6. COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Veterans' Commission Coordinator Gina Overholt reminded Commissioners to submit their compensation paperwork and reviewed the role of the Commission per its enabling legislation. In order to add honorary members to the Commission, for example, the ordinance will need to be updated and approved by City Council. Overholt also asked Commissioners to contact their respective Council member's offices about potential locations for future Commission meetings and that the Commission is back on track to complete the Veterans Strategic Plan and present it to Council in November. In-person Commission meetings will continue as legislation to allow for teleconference meetings has not been extended.

7. 21-005VA Recommendation to approve minutes for Veterans Affairs Commission meeting held on July 14, 2021.

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

Yes: 7 - Sylvia Contreras, Juanita Doplemore, Gustavo Orozco, Mike Shakhovich, Josh Smith, Ryan Antes and Ricky Fernandez

Excused: 1 - Jesse Blanco

REGULAR AGENDA

8. 21-006VA Recommendation to conduct annual nomination and election of officers.

Nominations were accepted from the floor for the Chair and Vice Chair positions. By voice vote, Ryan Antes was elected Chair and Smitty was elected Vice Chair.

A motion was made by Chair Fernandez, seconded by Vice Chair Antes, to approve recommendation to accept the newly elected Chair and Vice Chair. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Sylvia Contreras, Juanita Doplemore, Gustavo Orozco, Mike Shakhovich, Josh Smith, Ryan Antes and Ricky Fernandez

Excused: 1 - Jesse Blanco

9. 21-007VA Recommendation to discuss Veterans banners program.

Commissioner Orozco reported on his work with the Long Beach Veterans Day Committee on a Veterans' banners program. The non-profit could help fund the cost of the banners and seek funding from the City to support such a program. He proposed an ad hoc committee to explore the details involved, from finding out more about how local cities (like Rancho Cucamonga and Bellflower) do it, to obtaining permits and installing them. Commissioners Antes, Smitty, Shaknovich and Doplemore volunteered to join the committee.

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

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

Excused: 1 - Jesse Blanco

10. VETERANS' STRATEGIC PLAN

The Veterans Strategic Plan is back in production. A number of activities to move the project towards completion and presentation to Council are underway and staff is seeking the Commission's input and review. Staff will send out the new and improved version and continues to work on data updates, final approvals and graphic design and publication.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Smitty announced that there will be a procession led by the Patriot Guard Riders for US Marine Kareem Nikoui, killed in Afghanistan during the withdrawal, on September 17-19, and invited the Commission to join the ride through Norco, Ontario and Rancho Cucamonga.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.