

**CITY OF LAKE STEVENS
VETERANS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, December 4, 2017
Lake Stevens Community Center
1808 Main Street, Lake Stevens

CALL TO ORDER: 7:02 p.m. by Vice Chairman Richard Russell

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Gayle McCurdy, Stacy LaFlam, Dennis Ives, Melissa Ballou, Richard Russell, Cameron Balazic, Kim Daughtry, Kurt Hilt, Marcus Tageant

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Shawn Frederick, Leif Hamar

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Deputy City Clerk Kathy Pugh

OTHERS: Mike Schindler and Lori Grant, Operation Military Family Cares, Tom Thorleifson, American Legion

Call to Order: Vice Chairman Russell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Vice Chairman Russell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Moved by Commissioner Hilt, seconded by Commissioner Tageant, to excuse Commissioners Frederick and Hamar. On vote the motion carried (9-0-0-2).

Approval of Minutes: Moved by Commissioner Daughtry, seconded by Commissioner McCurdy, to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2017 meeting. On vote the motion carried with Commissioner Hilt abstaining (9-0-0-2).

Discussion Items: None.

Work Program:

County and City Veteran Demographics Review:

Mr. Schindler opened the conversation saying that understanding the veteran populations in Snohomish, King and Pierce Counties is important, and that these three counties were selected as the line the I-5 corridor. He added that these counties can expect see an uptick in veteran population. Mr. Schindler next reviewed veteran populations by city in these three counties and noted that Lake Stevens has approximately 7% of the veteran population.

Responding to Commissioner Daughtry's question, Ms. Grant said the criteria for selecting cities for veteran population was their proximity to I-5.

Mr. Schindler reviewed that the packet material contains a lot of information about the demographics of the veteran population, and that the majority of vets served in the Gulf War and Post 9/11 engagements. As a whole the group is younger and educated.

Updated Overview of Three Phone Interviews:

Mr. Schindler updated on the phone interviews which are now completed and commented that the Mayor views the commission as executing the identified goals and reporting to the Council at intervals of quarterly, six months and annually.

Commissioner Daughtry suggested it would be better for the commission to form committees and reach out to the veterans and organizations to achieve the identified goals.

Ms. Grant commented that the Mayor sees the community center as a priority.

Findings of Lake Stevens and Snohomish County Resources:

Mr. Schindler reviewed the Network of Care Resources, organize by category, and what of those resources are currently available in Lake Stevens and which resources are available in Snohomish County and other areas.

Review Proposed Thematic Goals for Top Priorities:

Mr. Schindler reviewed the established thematic goals and said they can be used as a checklist. He recommended a special, working meeting to decide which goals to execute on.

Ms. Grant said that in January she and Mr. Schindler will bring a "playbook" identifying how to leverage participation, proposed committees, and identifying a support system.

Review Standard Operating Objectives:

Mr. Schindler commented on the various resources now in place and said there are a variety of options for moving forward including Network of Care which is a more hands, self-service resource and WAServes which is a more of a concierge-type service. He commented that commissioners could become agents of WAServes and the commission would then act as a provider in that role. WAServes has the advantage of data tracking.

Commissioner LaFlam commented that Network of Care also has data tracking and one of their big topics is housing.

Ms. Grant said that WAServes offers data tracking and reports back on employment, benefits legal issues and housing.

Mr. Schindler said that both Network of Care and WAServes offer data tracking and both are confidential resources available to veterans.

Reviewing the WAServs results, Mr. Schindler commented there is a large input in the 26-54 age groups, and Commissioner LaFlam added that in her experience Viet Nam veterans tend to be more hands on, and Gulf War veterans tend to be oriented more toward using the Smart Phone.

Discussion ensued regarding how WAServs and Network of Care operate and the pros and cons of each organization. WAServs is more regionally visible while Network of Care is more local. Also discussed was how these resources would interface with the new community center, possible funding sources and staffing.

Mr. Schindler proposed a veteran specific web page linked to the city web page, which would include links to services.

Ms. Grant will work with Commissioner LaFlam and Tom Thorleifson to identify service data and will also help with grant writing.

Commissioner LaFlam suggested using a hybrid link on a web page for veterans to access services, and Commissioner Daughtry suggested other community websites, such as the Chamber of Commerce, could host a link to a veterans page. Commissioner LaFlam also suggesting linking with the 211 resource number would be good.

Commissioner Ballou suggested looking at national, as well as local, partners.

Vice Chairman Russell summarized that thematic goal no. 1 will be discussed at the January meeting and decisions will be made as to moving forward, including partnering with Network of Care and/or WAServes, 211 integration and how to move forward with a website.

Tom Thorleifson asked about the American Legion incorporating with WAServes.

Ms. Grant noted that some organizations do not want to participate with larger organizations, and she will work with Commissioner LaFlam on Network of Care.

Public Comment: None.

Adjourn:

MOTION: Moved by Commissioner Daughtry, seconded by Commissioner Hilt, to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. On vote the motion carried (9-0-0-2).



Leif Hamar, Chairperson



Kathy Pugh, Deputy City Clerk