

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

Monday, May 7, 2018
Lake Stevens Community Center
1808 Main Street, Lake Stevens

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Leif Hamar

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Leif Hamar, Dennis Ives, Richard Russell, Kim Daughtry, Shawn Frederick, Stacy LaFlam, Marcus Tageant

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Kurt Hilt, Gayle McCurdy, Cameron Balazic

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: City Clerk Kathy Pugh

OTHERS: Mayor John Spencer

Call to Order: Chairman Hamar called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Chairman Hamar led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

MOTION: Moved by Commissioner Daughtry, seconded by Commissioner Tageant, to excuse Commissioners Hilt, McCurdy and Balazic. On vote the motion carried (7-0-0-3).

Approval of Minutes: Moved by Commissioner Frederick, seconded by Commissioner Russell, to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2018 meeting. On vote the motion carried (7-0-0-3).

Discussion/Action Items:

Lake Stevens Business Expo Recap: Chairman Hamar opened the discussion and thanked everyone for their participation. He commented there was a great turn out at the Business Expo.

Commissioner Frederick said the commission needs a solid plan for outreach. Names and emails were collected at the Expo but there is not a plan in place to move forward. He added that it is important to drill down to who the veterans in the community really are. Commissioner Frederick also commented on the display materials and that other booths had mature, interactive brochures and material.

Chairman Hamar said he will organize the contact information that was obtained, and noted there was a lot of interest in the Veterans Commission. He suggested it is important to broadcast the message more broadly. Discussion ensued as to how and how much to reach out to veterans, and what tools to use to get the message out, including social media.

Mayor Spencer said he has talked with the Everett Naval Station commander about the possibility of bringing Navy housing to Lake Stevens.

Marketing Materials: Commissioner Frederick noted the commission is still building its image and suggested setting a goal of 30-60 days for improvement. He suggested displays at upcoming events, such as Aquafest could be more personalized and include trinkets to add interest. Commissioner Russell suggested a Challenge Coin.

Commissioner LaFlam reminded of the upcoming Snohomish County Veterans Stand Down on June 25 at the VFW on Oakes Avenue, and said this would be a good opportunity to see what others are doing. She said the Veterans homeless community is driving the stand down. Commissioner LaFlam also suggested that games could be used to draw people into conversation.

Community Conversations: Chairman Hamar shared that Theresa Cheng, a retired dentist in the Issaquah area, has spurred the creation of an organization called "Everyone for Heroes" to support veterans.

Mayor Spencer shared that Robert Whittle, retired from the Navy, is a Lake Stevens resident who wants to know how the Veterans Commission could help build a bowling alley with a fun center in the Lake Stevens area. Mr. Whittle already has a business plan, and said that locating property for this venture is the challenge. The thought is that the Veterans Commission might find other like-minded individuals to work with Mr. Whittle.

Upcoming Community Events-Fall 2018: There was discussion regarding upcoming events, including Aquafest on July 27, 28 and 29. Tom Thorleifson suggested the Veterans Commission and American Legion could set up tables next to each other for a better showing and encouraged finding something that will draw the children to the display tables.

Mayor Spencer commented that young people are action oriented and need something to do.

Chairman Hamar suggested piggy-backing with City events.

Tom Thorleifson also reminded that National Night Out follows Aquafest followed by September 11, and prior to that is Memorial Day.

Update of 501(c)(3) Corporat Status: Commissioner Frederick updated on the status of the draft bylaws for the Veterans Foundation, and commented the purpose of the foundation is to raise money to fund Veterans Commission programs. The proposal is that the foundation will consist of 7 members including four sitting Veterans Commission members and three at large members. Discussion ensued and Councilmember Daughtry commented it is important to have members at large, unrelated to the Veterans Commission as part of the makeup of the foundation. Commissioner Daughtry added that the foundation will have its own insurance and a business plan.

Community Center Update: No update.

Website Update: Commissioner Daughtry said the Veterans Commission web page needs to be part of the City's web page and he is working with the IT department. Commissioner Frederick suggested a calendar of Veterans Commission activities be added.

Emergency Preparedness: Commissioners Russell and Ives said they are working to develop a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Commissioner Ives has reached out to the Fire Chief and Fire Marshall, and said the goal is to create a core group of 50-70 people before mapping neighborhoods. Snohomish County could do the basic CERT training. Commissioner

Ives suggested schools set the neighborhood boundaries as they provide a large enough facility for gathering people in the case of an emergency. Commissioner Russell commented the Veterans Commission can set this program in motion, but that it would ultimately be a fire department program.

Commissioner Tageant left the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Commissioner Ives said the Fire Department needs to buy in to this suggested program before it can move forward.

New Business: Commissioner Daughtry said he was contacted by an organization that installs handicap ramps for veterans in their homes. The organization bids the jobs, but needs a contractor on the ground to do the actual installation, and Commissioner Daughtry wondered if veterans could assist. Commissioner Daughtry is willing to oversee any veterans who provide assistance.

Public Comment: Tom Thorleifson reminded of the Memorial Day Service at the War Memorial

Upcoming Agenda Items: Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation, Aquafest Booth, Police Chief John Dyer

Adjourn:

MOTION: Moved by Commissioner Daughtry, seconded by Commissioner Frederick, to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m. On vote the motion carried (7-0-0-3).



Leif Hamar, Chairperson



Kathy Pugh, City Clerk