

**CITY OF LAKE STEVENS
VETERANS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**
Monday, August 6, 2018
Lake Stevens Community Center
1808 Main Street, Lake Stevens

CALL TO ORDER: 7:03 p.m. by Chairman Leif Hamar

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Leif Hamar, Cameron Balazic, Dennis Ives, Kim Daughtry, Shawn Frederick, Marcus Tageant, Kurt Hilt (7:08 p.m.)

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Stacy LaFlam, Gayle McCurdy, Richard Russell, Samara Heydon

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Clerk Teresa Meyers

OTHERS:

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

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

Roll Call: Following the arrival of Commissioner Hilt, moved by Commissioner Daughtry, seconded by Commissioner Tageant, to excuse Commissioners LaFlam, McCurdy Russell and Heydon from the meeting. On vote the motion carried (7-0-0-4).

Approval of Minutes: After Commissioner Hilt arrived, moved by Commissioner Tageant, seconded by Commissioner Daughtry, to approve the July 2, 2018 minutes with a change at page 3 reflecting that Mike Guderjohn left the Navy after seven years of service. On vote the motion carried (7-0-0-4).

Discussion/Action Items:

Aquafest Recap: Chair Hamar commented the booth went very well and there was a lot of interest shown in the commission and what it is doing. It was apparent to visitors that the Veterans Commission is separate from the American Legion and VFW. There was a lot of interest and consensus on the logo, the newsletter and signing up for CERT training.

Discussion ensued and there was general agreement that the booth went very well with a high level of interest in the Commission, and what options might be considered for next year. Ideas included turning the logo into a patch for a give-away, and drawing the children in, which will in turn draw the parents in. Also discussed was having someone to assist with disability claims and different ways to increase visibility in the community.

Commissioner Frederick suggested partnering with other 501(c)(3) organizations to assist with financing the CERT training, and there was discussion as to whether this is possible and how it could occur. Commissioner Tageant suggested approaching the Kiwanis, Rotary and Lion's Clubs about the possibility of making a presentation on what the Veterans Commission is doing and seeking funding from these organizations.

Audience member John Guderjohn commented that there are groups such as the VFW and American Legion throughout the area, including Snohomish, Mount Vernon and Everett, for example that draw veterans from Lake Stevens, and encouraged that the Veterans Commission reach out to these outlying organizations.

Finalize Award Template and Logo: Chairman Hamar said the one feedback received on the logos is that they need to be placed in the order they were institutionalized. The community preferred the first logo with the stars and stripes. Chairman Hamar suggested that of the two preferred templates, one could be used as the logo and the other could be used for the patches. There was consensus to table the vote on the logo until the full commission is present.

Discussion turned to Veterans Commission apparel, and there was preference for a polo shirt with the logo, once the logo is approved.

Marketing Update: Commissioner Balazic said he did not get a financial update but will get one. The discussion turned to business cards with the logo, and what email address could be used on the business cards. There was discussion as to what emails councilmembers use and whether the city has a capacity to add emails for non-elected commissioners vs. using the generic email that is currently in place for the Veterans Commission.

Chairman Hamar said the newsletter is nearly ready to go. He would like to add pictures from Aquafest. There was discussion on how the newsletter will be published and disseminated. It appears there are 60-75 people who would like to receive the newsletter.

Establish a Planning Committee: Commissioner Hamar suggested now that the Veterans Commission has been in place for a year, that it might be good to consider having a Planning Committee consisting of 3-4 members of the commission. The Planning Committee would be responsible for bringing forward ideas to make the commission more pro-active in the community.

Commissioner Frederick said that the Veterans Memorial at Snohomish County was decommissioned. He believes this was a missed opportunity on the part of the Veterans Commission to communicate with veterans who are employed by or hold elected positions with Snohomish County.

Also discussed was possibly having a booth at the Movie in the Park and Shakespeare events. Commissioner Daughtry noted these are permitted events that the Arts Commission brings forward.

Discussion turned to Veterans Day and Commissioner Frederick noted the school district has Veterans Day Events. Commissioner Hamar asked for one or two commissioners to attend events at the schools. He will attend at his daughter's school and will talk with the administration about attending as a Veterans Commission representative. Commissioner Daughtry said he will attend and Commissioner Frederick said he could plan tentatively to attend some of the school district Veterans Day programming.

Commissioner Hamar asked that someone attend the September 11 Fire Department ceremony.

Internal Communication: Commissioner Hamar said it is important for the commissioners get to know each other a little better and suggested getting together between meetings. This will help the commission to be more productive. He invited suggestions, and discussion ensued.

There was consensus that commissioners will find ways to get to know each other, while being aware of the importance of not inadvertently creating a public meeting.

Community Visibility: Commissioner Frederick said the challenge is to leverage outside resources to meet the commission goals and objectives. He encouraged the commission needs to be willing to take advantage of those opportunities so that it is visible in the community. He encouraged the Planning Committee needs to reach out to the community, including organizations such as the Rotary and Kiwanis, to build those relationships and networking opportunities.

Commissioner Daughtry commented that moving forward with the business recognition will help with this and Commissioner Tageant added that once those businesses are recognized and receive their award they can include the logo with their advertising. Commissioner Tageant also suggested posting to Facebook to thank the community for visiting the Veterans Commission booth and voting on the logo designs.

Foundation Update: Discussed earlier.

New Business: Responding to a question about the Food Bank, there was discussion as to how the Food Bank is moving forward

Public Comment:

John Reid, Marine Corps Veteran, Viet Nam, is opposed to moving the Veterans Memorial.

In response to a question from the audience, the Commission said it will not take a position on whether or not the War Memorial is moved.

Tom Thorleifson commented individuals within the American Legion have taken stands against moving the memorial.

Mike Guderjohn, is a member of the VFW, commented the commission is missing great opportunities by not reaching out to the VFW and American Legion organizations in the area. He encouraged it would help to present a mission statement. He also noted that the Everett Clinic is no longer part of the VA Tri-West Healthcare program, so there is not local healthcare available for veterans in Lake Stevens. He encouraged that the commission needs to be active in the community.

Adjourn:

MOTION: Moved by Commissioner Tageant, seconded by Commissioner Hilt, to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. On vote the motion carried (7-0-0-4).

Leif Hamar, Chairperson

Kathy Pugh, City Clerk

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Leif Hamar, Chairperson
Shawn Frederick, Vice Chair



Kathy Pugh, City Clerk