

**CITY OF LAKE STEVENS
VETERANS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**
Monday, May 6, 2019
Lake Stevens Fire Station 82 Conference Room
9811 Chapel Hill Road, Lake Stevens

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m. by Vice Chair Shawn Frederick

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Shawn Frederick, Gayle McCurdy, Kim Daughtry, Kurt Hilt, Marcus Tageant (7:02 p.m.), Samara Heydon (7:05 p.m.)

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Dennis Ives

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Kathy Pugh, City Clerk

Call to Order: Chair Frederick called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Chair Frederick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Due to lack of a quorum roll call was not taken.

There was consensus to discuss agenda items with no action to be taken.

Public Comment: None.

Approval of Minutes: Moved by Commissioner Hilt, seconded by Commissioner Tageant, to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2019 meeting. On vote the motion carried (6-0-0-1) (7:17 p.m.)

Commissioner Tageant arrived at 7:02 p.m.

Discussion/Action Items:

Purple Heart City: Chair Frederick confirmed that the proclamation is scheduled for the May 14, 2019 City Council meeting. He invited any comments regarding the letters of recommendation and proclamation. Commissioners had no comments and Chair Frederick will request the proclamation be placed on the May 14th City Council meeting agenda.

Upcoming Events:

Memorial Day: Commissioner Tageant said that the City does not have Memorial Day events planned, but the Legion does.

Troop 42 Flag Retirement: Discussion saved until Commissioner Ives is present.

Commissioner Heydon arrived at 7:05 p.m.

Aquafest: Chair Frederick reviewed last year's Aquafest event and suggested the commission could have a better presence if planning begins now. Commissioner Tageant suggested partnering with the Legion or another group.

Chamber Business Expo: No updates.

Business Recognition Certificates: Commissioner Tageant proposed using some of the budget funds to purchase frames so that the certificates can be awarded. Discussion ensued with the comment made that there are at least three known businesses that would qualify for the recognition. Commissioner Tageant suggested working with the Chamber, and perhaps having a mixer to award the certificates so that people are more aware of these businesses and this recognition. Commissioner Hilt identified Big O Tires, the Lake Stevens Brewery, and one other business. Commissioner Tageant suggested he and Commissioner Daughtry could team up to host an event and make the first awards.

Non-Profit/Foundation Update: Chair Frederick reminded that the Foundation is now fully approved and active, including a Facebook page with an option to donate. To date approximately \$300 in donations have been received. He reminded there was discussion about donating money toward the Purple Heart Foundation, but that an amount had never been determined. He added this would be done at a Foundation meeting.

CERT Update:

MOTION: Moved by Commissioner Tageant to end the efforts to provide CERT training.

Discussion ensued with Commissioner Tageant saying that while he supports CERT training, there are many things having a more immediate effect that can be done to assist veterans in the community. Commissioner Heydon suggested the CERT training program is more appropriately a Veterans Foundation program; Commissioner Hilt supports this action, but does see the CERT training as a way to utilize veteran skills in the community. Chair Frederick said that veterans need help transitioning to civilian life.

SECOND: Commissioner McCurdy seconded the motion. On vote the motion carried (6-0-0-1).

Discussion continued on assisting veterans, with Commissioner Tageant saying, and Commissioner Hilt agreeing, it would be good to have a Veterans Service Officer (VSO) available one day a week. Commissioner Tageant suggested a Veterans Day event focusing on how to get veterans involved would be good, and that this could be done in conjunction with the Legion. The possibility of a Veterans Day parade was discussed, and there was consensus that a Veteran's Day celebration could be the focal point, with a parade drawing people to the celebration.

Commissioner Hilt made a point of order to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2019 meeting. (See, Approval of Minutes, above.)

Commissioner Daughtry commented with the Food Bank building project beginning, there will soon be a location to offer VSO services, and that he recently learned there is a Veterans Administration paid work study program that would be provided at no cost so long as services are provided to veterans. Commissioner Daughtry suggested a paid intern under the VA program could be used to staff an office and schedule appointments.

Commissioner Tageant commented the commission does not lack resources, but it lacks the knowledge of those resources. It is worth the time and cost to identify the resources that will assist in moving some of these ideas and programming forward so that veterans start receiving assistance.

The discussion turned back to Veterans Day and the logistics of hosting a parade versus a celebration, including the possibility of sponsorships for a celebration.

Budget Update: Commissioner Daughtry said that the funds cannot be transferred to the Veterans Foundation as that has the appearance of a gift of public funds. Commissioner Daughtry then asked about the \$2,000 that was given to the commission at the time it was formed, and Clerk Pugh said that money was given to the Veterans Commission, which is part of the City organization and is not eligible for transfer for the same reason.

Commissioner Frederick summarized that the priorities for the remaining funding are for a Veterans Day event, the business recognition certificates and frames, getting the work study program with the VA, and the VSO.

There was discussion on identifying a qualified VSO to come to Lake Stevens one day a week as a starting point, and where that office could be located until the Food Bank facility is completed. Commissioner Frederick summarized Commissioner McCurdy will contact a VSO she knows and see if that person is available, and that he will work on the Veterans Day celebration and the business certificates and frames.

MOTION: Moved by Commissioner Frederick, seconded by Commissioner Hilt, to award the first business recognition certificate to Lake Stevens Brewery. On vote the motion carried (6-0-0-1)

Upcoming Agenda Items: Add Veterans Day celebration/parade, VSO, VA Work-Study program, business recognitions – certificate frames.

Adjourn: Moved by Commissioner Tageant, seconded by Commissioner McCurdy, to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m. On vote the motion carried (6-0-0-1).



Shawn Frederick, Chairman



Kathy Pugh, City Clerk