

**CITY OF LAKE STEVENS
VETERANS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Monday, February 3, 2020
Lake Stevens Fire Station 82 Conference Room
9811 Chapel Hill Road, Lake Stevens**

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Frederick

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Shawn Frederick, Kim Daughtry, Kevin McLarnon, Vern Rasmussen, Karen Boe, Dennis Ives, Marcus Tageant

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Samara Heydon, Karmin Pincus, Gayle McCurdy, Kurt Hilt,

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Kathy Pugh, City Clerk,

OTHERS PRESENT:

Call to Order: In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, Commissioner Frederick called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

Roll Call: Motion by Commissioner Tageant, seconded by Commissioner Boe, to excuse Commissioners Heydon, Pincus, McCurdy and Hilt from the meeting. On vote the motion carried (7-0-0-4).

Public Comment: None.

Guest Business: None.

Approval of Minutes: Moved by Commissioner Daughtry, seconded by Commissioner Tageant, to approve the January 6, 2020 meeting minutes. Commissioner McLarnon requested an amendment to the draft minutes at page 3 in the first paragraph under Communications, (2) to strike the words "use of the web site" and replace the language with, "create a document to communicate with the public in person and on the web site." Commissioner Daughtry amended his motion to include the requested change with Commissioner Tageant seconding the amended motion.

VOTE: On vote the motion to approve the January 6, 2020 meeting minutes as amended carried (7-0-0-4).

Discussion/Action Items:

Event Follow Up: No items.

Upcoming Events:

- **Memorial Day Run:** No update.

Veterans Service Officer: Commissioner Daughtry reported the VSO was ill and did not come to the last scheduled appointment date. Commissioner McLarnon asked what the goals are for the VSO in the next six months. Discussion ensued, and Commissioners identified the goal is for the Veterans Foundation to raise money to pay the VSO so that more hours can be offered to veterans in the community. Commissioner McLarnon suggested it would be good to have a conversation on how present activities can be used to bridge to future commission activities. Commissioner McLarnon also asked about the liability risks of the VSO and Commissioner Boe explained that the VSO is certified and works through the Veterans Administration. The City is only providing a meeting space and is not liable for the services provided.

Vision Statement: Clerk Pugh provided a brief history of establishment of the Veterans Commission and said the recitals in the enabling ordinance generally provide the framework for a vision for this commission. She reminded that commissioners were provided a link to the commission's minutes on the City web page and said that a consultant was originally brought on to assist with identifying goals and objectives of the commission.

Discussion ensued with Commissioner Ives recalling that cards were going to be made up to hand out to people about the commission and Commissioner Daughtry commenting that the language on the City's web page is generally reflective of what the commission identified its vision and goals as being. Commissioner Boe commented the web page does provide focus. Commissioner McLarnon said he is trying to understand how commission programs are reflective of the goals and said it seems to be a question of money to fund the programs.

Commissioners reminded that the Veterans Foundation was established as a fundraising vehicle to fund Veteran Commission programming as the City cannot pay those programming costs.

Commissioner Rasmussen suggested adding bullets under each goal on the web page identifying who the contact is.

Commissioner Tageant said he is asking the Rotary to nominate the Foundation as a recipient of Rotary Funds. The Foundation needs to focus on fundraising, and he suggested setting a goal of raising \$10,000 by the summer.

Commissioner Daughtry commented the purposes of the commission are set out in the ordinance and programming is reflective of those purposes.

Commissioner McLarnon asked what is being done between meetings to advance those goals and clarified he is generally looking for direction.

Commissioner Tageant said promoting veteran-owned and veteran-friendly businesses can be done in between meetings and also suggested contacting the veterans organization in Yelm to build a relationship.

Newsletter: Commissioner McLarnon believes publishing a newsletter by April 1st is an ambitious goal. He also suggested making the newsletter available on the City web page. Discussion ensued and there was general agreement to target Flag Day for publication of the next newsletter, followed by Veterans Day. Commissioner McLarnon said he is happy to assemble the newsletter but he needs commissioners to provide content to him. Commissioner Tageant said the content does not have to be Lake Stevens specific, and Commissioner Ives suggested an article reviewing the American Legion's new membership requirements.

Commissioner Frederick asked everyone to forward news articles and other content to Commissioner McLarnon for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Purple Heart City: No update; Commissioner Daughtry will contact Commissioner Heydon.

Business Recognition Certificates: Discussed above.

Non-Profit/Foundation Update: Commissioner Frederick is continuing to attempt to change the Foundation's mailing address. Discussion ensued with the general opinion being that the Foundation needs to begin meeting and Commissioner Frederick will set a meeting date. There was general conversation about funding through such vehicles as Amazon Smile and searching out grant funding.

Communications: No additional update; see above.

New Business: None.

Upcoming Agenda Items:

- Future Planning based on calendar dates
- Sedro Woolley American Legion/Veterans Expo

Adjourn: Motion by Commissioner Daughtry, seconded by Commissioner Tageant to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m. On vote the motion carried (7-0-0-).



Samara Heydon, Chairman



Kathy Pugh, City Clerk