

Minutes for the Meeting of City of Hawthorne
Veterans Affairs Commission
February 20, 2019

Meeting Convened: 3:16 P.M.

- 1) Call to Order
 - a. ***Commissioner's Present: Lester, Moreno, Robilotta, Steinhauer, Chair Orlemann***
- 2) Flag Salute, Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3) Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.3, the February 4, 2019 Veterans Affairs Commission Agenda was posted at City Hall, 4455 West 126th St., Hawthorne, CA on February 13, 2019 at 12:00 p.m.
- 4) Oral Communications:
 - a. ***Ms. Michelle Felix from the LA County Department of Military and Veterans Affairs presented to the Commission and highlighted areas of interest they support, including Veterans driver license approvals, college fee waiver program, and other veterans' benefits. She also indicated records in her agency show ~2500 veterans in Hawthorne. Chair Orlemann inquired whether it was possible to have access to those records. Her agency will plan to attend the Veterans Benefits Day.***
- 5) Written Communications: None
- 6) Approval of Minutes for the meeting of February 4, 2019
 - a. ***Motioned by Comm. Moreno, seconded by Comm. Lester, approved by Commission 5-0***
- 7) Commission's Discussion/Action Items:
 - o Discussion of Veterans Benefits Day event, April 13, 2019
 - Speaker and Exhibitor invite letters; sign ups and confirmations
 - ***Letters are pending editing and approval for emailing***
 - ***Sec. Gafney will provide a list of email address for those names from his database***
 - Draft agenda topics, flow, and speaker time allocations
 - ***Final invites, decisions on exhibitors and speakers to be made at March 4 meeting***
 - VSO Activities (VA, DAV, etc.)
 - ***VSO's will be provided tables and divided in quadrants in Polaris room***
 - Impact of other events and logistics coordination for lunch, parking concerns
 - ***Parking lot east of MC will be open and access directly through the gate to the back of MC will be available and accessible.***
 - ***Layout for rooms is pending submission to MC***
 - ***Invite extended to Ballroom Dance exhibition as part of program***
 - Sign-in, wristbands, processing; room layout, flag displays, lunch venue (Venus room?)
 - ***Lunch may be available as needed in Venus room***
 - ***No sign-in, first come, first served for wristbands***
 - o VOTQ Actions
 - Review proclamation for Robert Smith, council update presentation slot for March 26
 - ***Commission approved proclamation draft for VOTQ on March 26 (Proclamation was motioned for approval at previous Feb. 4 Commission meeting).***

- *Discussion occurred on combining the VOTQ ceremony with a presentation to the City Council for a “State of the Commission” report by Chair Orlemann. Sec. Gafney and Comm. Robilotta indicated they would help in the PowerPoint draft of this presentation on March 26.*
 - HPD proclamation presentation plans
 - *Chair asked Sec. Gafney to coordinate with HPD on presenting remaining plaques to the 15 officers from the Veterans Day ceremony*
- Budget Review and Update
 - New solicitation status update; reconciliation with “Hope is Helping”
 - *Commission asked Sec. Gafney to determine status with “Hope is Helping” for remaining funds (\$618.04) due the Commission*
 - *Chair Orlemann and Sec. Gafney discussed the City Council approval of establishing a 501c3 for the city where each Commission could solicit donations for their specific use.*
 - *Related discussion topic included the Council decision to conduct Commission meetings in evenings in lieu of afternoons. The intent and objective of this change was based on perceptions of younger veterans attending outside work hours. The Commission was asked to contemplate that Council decision and determine whether it would be feasible and supported by Commissioners.*
 - *Sec. Gafney indicated he would send a “you tube” video with timeline annotated links for the pertinent sections for Commissioners to understand the Council directive and objectives*
- Veterans Related Outreach Database
 - Designate a commissioner to develop and maintain a master list of key contacts for events
 - *Comm. Moreno will be lead for establishing a comprehensive database of Hawthorne veterans*
- Open Business
 - Veterans website updates; Commissioner Bio’s; Ethics training status (AB1234)
 - *The website continues to be updated weekly as articles are submitted*
 - *Commissioner bio’s and ethics training are outstanding for some Commissioners*
 - Update on hosting of County Veterans Commission May 8
 - *The Commission will support this and advertise to the maximum extent possible*
 - Meetings update: Oversight Board, Veteran Collaborative, WLA Master Plan, CVEB, VPAC, Cty Commission
 - Next meeting Monday, March 18; agenda topics
 - *Special meeting was requested for April 8 for final planning for Benefits Day*

8) Commissioners Report/Recommendations: None

9) Adjournment: 4:50 p.m.