

Minutes for the Meeting of City of Hawthorne
Veterans Affairs Commission
August 26, 2019

Meeting Convened: 3:17 P.M.

- 1) Call to Order
 - ***Commissioner's Present: Lester, Moreno, Robilotta, Steinhauer, Chair Orlemann***
 - ***Commissioner Absent: Steinhauer***
- 2) Flag Salute, Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3) Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.3, the August 26, 2019 Veterans Affairs Commission Agenda was posted at City Hall, 4455 West 126th St., Hawthorne, CA on August 14, 2019 at 12 noon.
- 4) Oral Communications:
- 5) Written Communications: ***None***
- 6) Approval of Minutes: ***The August 12 meeting minutes were approved, and motioned by Commissioner Lester and seconded by Commissioner Robilotta; passed 4-0***
- 7) Commission's Discussion/Action Items
 - Discussion of Hawthorne Veteran Housing related to Council approval of city-owned land
 - i. ***Tess Banko, UCLA Executive Director of the Family Wellness Center on the VA Campus, presented on the regional, local and national aspects of homelessness and the relevance to the Hawthorne housing project. As in earlier discussions, the direction was towards a version of single parent family housing. The discussion involved the type of veteran – homeless (with income/vouchers), veteran employed or some version of a veteran who would be able to pay a rent to the city. It was expected that much of the qualified veteran audience would be females with younger children, already an underserved veteran population.***
 - ii. ***The Commissioners asked various questions about the presentation and suggested tweaking the PPT to appeal better to Council members. The personal story of Tess Banko was also suggested since that might resonate well with the council and city leaders attending.***
 - iii. ***Ms. Banko agreed to update the presentation and will address again at the next meeting.***
 - iv. ***The topic of obtaining a council calendar date and which "entity" would be represented in the presentation was discussed and it was agreed that Ms. Banko would likely make the request to the City Manager on behalf of the larger veterans SME group for a session in later September or October.***
 - Budget Review and Update
 - i. Solicitation update; reconciliation with "Hope is Helping"
 - ***Secretary Gafney was in contact with Pat Donaldson and she was not available to remit the remaining balance of \$368 prior to the meeting, and further plans would be made to meet prior to the next meeting to try and resolve outstanding balances from past events.***

- *Sec. Gafney will be updating the HVAC spreadsheet prior to the next meeting for distribution and discussion on the account balance.*
 - *With no event planned this Veterans Day, the Commission felt there was no need to undertake donation/solicitation activity at this time.*
- Website and technical Responsibilities
 - i. *Sec. Gafney discussed the email address obtained by Commissioner Lester, as a replacement for the HVAC Gmail account in use (by Sec. Gafney since the formation of the Commission).*
 - *The new email address would be updated in 4 places on the website and become the general outreach address to the community for any questions.*
 - ii. *Sec. Gafney also discussed handing over the website management to Commissioner Lester for the aforementioned general email responses, the updating of the website, and coordination of posting of pages on events and resources through HPD IT support.*
 - iii. *The issue of Facebook access for the Commission Facebook page was again discussed, and the process and convoluted steps necessary to access the page for posting was felt to be frustrating and a function of the original setup by Evelyn two years ago. Commissioner Lester was going to reach out to Evelyn and Sec. Gafney would speak with Peggy Holt in IT for further help.*
 - Open Business
 - i. *Chair Orlemann explained the Oversight Board highlights but the primary topic involving the WLA project was deferred from the agenda due to further reviews and approvals in the government process.*
 - ii. *Chair Orlemann asked for input for potential Veterans of the Quarter at the next meeting, so the Commission can be positioned for another recognition before year-end.*
 - iii. *With the September holiday effect, the Commission decided to schedule the next 2 meetings on the 9th and 23rd, and revert back to normal schedule on the 1st and 3rd Monday's beginning in October.*

8) Adjournment: 4:23 p.m.