

**Veterans Commission
Meeting Minutes**

Monday, January 30, 2023

Present: Alfred Banfield, Hank Scherf, Brandon Jones, Fred Baer, Kyle Corcoran, Brandon Jones, John Nibbelin, Donna Villancourt, Mary Cravalho, Caroline Schlocker

Staff: Marcy Dragun, Ed Kiryczun, Samay Chhun, Alex Ayag

Public Comments By: None

Topic	Discussion	Actions/Next Steps
Meeting called to order & Pledge of Allegiance Recited	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm- Pledge of allegiance and roll call taken- 9 present	No Additional actions or steps
Approval of minutes & adoption of agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Minutes from November 14, 2022, Commission meetings were adopted- Minutes Approved 9 Y/ 0 N- Agenda Approved 9 Y/ 0 N	No Additional actions or steps
Public Comments	None	No Additional actions or steps

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Veterans Commission Business

2021 TO 2022 COMPARISON

No Additional actions or
steps

Measure	2021	2022	Difference
Veteran Interactions	5951	2,418*	NA
Total Retroactive received	\$2,223,746.69	\$3,060,970.49	+\$837,223.80
Total Monthly Assistance	\$303,933.76	\$384,827.48	+\$80,893.72
Claims Submitted	555	953	+398
College Fee Waivers Granted	133	124	-9
College Fee's Waived	\$821,256.00	\$844,950.00	+\$23,694

* Unique Interactions

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Veterans Commission Business (Continued)	<p>Ed Kiryczun, VSO Operation Update</p> <p>Alex Ayag 2022 Highlights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New relationship with warrior canine to do more outreach and events - Plan for 2023 (still in the planning stages) - Dog show for friends and family at American Legion possible dates in July or August - Veteran Luncheon - Piggyback off auto show to talk more about CDL for Veterans <p>Office Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ordering name tags for all Commissioners 	<p>Alex</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Follow up with the VA for dog show sponsorship *Check list of who is currently sponsoring the show *Get in contact with humane society and see if they are willing to be a sponsor
Veterans Commission Business (Continued)	<p>Message from Leah Grant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Landed dream job as a Lead Architect - Resigning from Veteran Commission <p>Donna Vaillancourt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commission Chair—Vice Chair Nomination - Nomination of Donna Vaillancourt for Chairperson 9 Y/ 0 N - Nomination of Brandon Jones for Chairperson 9 Y/ 0 N <p>Veterans Commission Strategic Plan Update</p> <p>Brandon and Mary working on speakers for March meeting that will address mental health and suicide</p>	<p>No Additional actions or steps</p>

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<p>Veterans Commission Business (Continued)</p>	<p>Veterans Commission Strategic Plan Update (continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Caroline: Speakers for July session on different benefits and health care system - Looking for volunteers to get speakers in May for employment and education - *Probably call on Cody whose role is to support community college for Veterans - Cody is the point person for community outreach event—has a goal under marketing - Ron Mussman-- legislative liaison 	<p>Donna *Send out a plan where we still have gaps and see where interest might be and contribute</p>
<p>Veterans Commission Business (Continued)</p>	<p>SMC Center of Homelessness Presentation</p> <p>Brooke Lewellyn and Khalia Parish</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Goal is to build an understanding to end Veterans Homelessness - Sustain a coordinated and effective community system - Work to ensure that vets in the County of San Mateo are quickly engage to resources available to return to permanent housing - Data is collected from the VA, homeless service providers, and our County to track when Veterans enter the system and what services they are connected to - Look into any barriers on the path to obtain permanent housing - On a monthly basis, lead case conference meeting bringing together Vets and homeless service providers to discuss specifics - Focus on Veterans whose needs are highest in vulnerability with housing plans and barriers they are experiencing 	<p>No Additional action or steps</p>

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Veterans Commission Business (Continued)	<p>SMC Center of Homelessness Presentation (Continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaborative approach with other agencies to track and engage with all Veterans - Main goal in homeless prevention—have them stay housed - Entry points are case managers doing Outreach - Coordinate entry point with core service agencies - Specialize services for Veterans with 2 shelters in San Mateo County are Maple Street and Haven Family Housing 	No Additional action or steps
Veterans Commission Business (Continued)	<p>San Mateo County Housing Authority Presentation</p> <p>Ron B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Majority of Veterans who are currently homes are 55 years and older - Chronically homeless identified as 1 year or more is at 24% - Provides rental assistance to section 8 housing and issuing housing choice vouchers - 2 entries are project based which is a tied to subsidy project housing and tenant programs issuing at least 400 vouchers - Major programs for Veterans are through HUDVASH-436 vouchers available - *80% utilization rate - All resources come from either VA Palo Alto or San Francisco VA - Eligibility expanded to other than honorable discharge - New Communities includes Menlo Park-VA, Belmont Family Apartments and Eucalyptus Grove Apartments 	No Additional action or steps
Announcements Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting adjourns at 8:05 pm 	No Additional actions or steps