

**Veterans Commission Meeting Minutes
July 9, 2018**

Present: Hank Scherf, Brandon Jones, Mark Leach, George Smith, Kai Martin, Linda Meyer, Francisco Oliva, Jacob Pletcher, Ben Renda, and Ron Dickson

Absent: Alfred Banfield and Fred Baer,

Staff: Supervisor Slocum, Marci Dragun, Supervisor Slocum's Office, Selina Toy Lee, HSA, Norman Aleman, CVSO HSA

Public Comments by: Ms. Therese Dyer, Mr. Elmer Madrid, and Ms. Joana Arteaga la Spina

Topic	Discussion	Action/Next Steps
Meeting Called to order and pledge of allegiance recited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pledge of allegiance and roll call taken. 	No additional actions or steps needed.
Approval of prior meeting minutes and Adoption of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes from the May meeting were adopted. Agenda for tonight's meeting was approved. 	No additional actions or steps needed.
Public Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public comments given by two in the audience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ms. Therese Dyer asked the CVSO in regards to her ongoing VA claim. Also made comments on serving women veterans and how county funds are being distributed. ○ Mr. Madrid informed the commission of the work being done at the San Bruno and the San Francisco VA clinics. He's providing free BBQs for all veterans at each site. Asked the commission to participate in the BBQs. Also suggested to have an annual veterans BBQ at Coyote Point. Lastly, asked for assistance with creating a stand down. ○ Ms. Joanna Arteaga La Spina announced the upcoming Veteran Pathways to Citizen Workshop and the Veteran focused events at the EPA library. 	No additional actions or steps needed.

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Veteran Commission Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oath of Loyalty – Reappointments were made: Linda Meyer (full voting member), Brandon Jones, Kai Martin, Paul “Hank” Scherf, and George Smith • Redwood City Director of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services, Mr. Chris Beth provided an overview of the Red Morton Park Veterans Memorial building renovation. • Commissioner Martin discussed priorities for the commission and to create a sub-committee to address them. Commissioner Martin will lead the group along with Commissioners George Smith, Brandon Jones, and Ben Renda. • Strategic Marketing Sub-Committee discussed progress in developing a strategic plan to bring veterans and their families to the CVSO office and connect them with VA and other resources. Discussion developed to making a difference between a full assessment and narrower marketing plan. Discussion also mentioned homelessness and mental health issues for veterans and should be considered into the marketing plan. • Housing Sub-Committee chair Commissioner Dickson provided a brief update on what’s currently happening. • Chair Scherf provided an update on the veteran of the Year. Invitation for guest speaker has been issued with no reply at this time. Date is set for November 8th at the San Mateo Marriott. 	<p>Supervisor Warren Slocum administered the oath of loyalty.</p> <p>See handouts.</p> <p>The new sub-committee will meet to address the issues.</p> <p>Committee will continue to meet and develop the proposal. Once proposal is complete, it will be presented to the commission.</p> <p>Committee will continue to meet and provide updates as needed.</p> <p>Meeting is being scheduled to being the planning.</p>
Report from CVSO Liaison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CVSO Norman Aleman provided the report. 	<p>See attachment for report.</p>
Announcements from Veterans Commissioners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CVSO announced the CDVA Pathway to Citizenship at the EPA library • Commissioner Martin mentioned meditation retreat he attended. • Supervisor Slocum suggested bringing meditation to the SMC libraries. • Commissioner Smith discussed the opportunity to involve elected officials to add the CVSO services on their newsletters. 	<p>No additional steps.</p>

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Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meeting adjourned at 8pm	Next Commission meeting is September 10, 2018 at 6:30pm