

**Veterans Commission
Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 14, 2020**

Present: Fred Baer; Alfred Banfield; Kai Martin; Linda Meyer; Francisco Olivia; Jacob Pletcher; Hank Scherf; George Smith; Donna Vaillancourt; Brandon Jones

Absent:

Staff: John Nibbelin; Chief Deputy County Counsel; Selina Toy-Lee, HSA; Ed Kiryczun, CVSO/HSA; Matt Wilson, CVSO/HSA; Darren Adkinson, CVSO/HAS

Public Comments by: No public comments

Topic	Discussion	Action/Next Steps
Meeting Called to order and Pledge of Allegiance recited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting called to order at 6:31pm. • Pledge of allegiance and roll call taken. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Alternates, Corrections made, removing Ron Dickson, Correcting Francisco's name
Approval of May Minutes and Adoption of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes from the July 2020 meeting were adopted. 10 Yes / 0 No • Agenda for tonight's meeting was approved. 10 Yes / 0 No 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional actions or steps
Public Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No public comments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional actions or steps
Veterans Commission Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ed Kiryczun, CVSO Covid Operations Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ From January 1st to Aug 30, 2020 Veterans Served: 6018 Total Retro Received: 1,984,649.99 Total Monthly Assistance: 189,880.41 or 2,278,564.90 per year Claims Submitted: 433 College Fee Waivers Granted: 127 College Fee's Waived: 720,114.00 ➤ Operation Updates: Continue to offer phone and video meetings, most veterans have same day appointments, contact-less claims, offering in person appointments on needs basis, and issuing bus passes on a need's basis. ➤ VA Law: DMV can accept certificate from CVSO office for a special license plate or place card for disabled veterans. Previously needed certificate from USDVA. ➤ 10% of Blue water claims make up office claims. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • George Smith requested the CVSO presentation be sent to commissioners so they can use it for public events for the commission.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Darren Adkinson, County Veterans Services Outreach Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Outreach has been mostly through the post card outreach, to update veterans' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional actions or steps

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<p>Veterans Commission Business (continued)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fred Baer has offered his services for anything the VROCs need ➤ Commissioners Alfred Banfield and George Smith volunteered to be on the VROC task force. 	<p>steps</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nathen Cataline and Allison Ulrich of CIVIX, Needs Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 40-year record of success providing industry expertise, technology, and proven processes to transportation, government, and grants clients. ➤ Ensure that San Mateo County veterans Needs Assessment and Outreach Study is appropriately centered on the unique needs and preferences of veterans ➤ The community planning and resilience team provides multidisciplinary expertise in community development, federal grants management, housing and the needs of special populations. Including veterans and those experiencing homelessness. ➤ Specialize in needs assessment: Veterans work, affordable housing, homelessness, and other special needs population. ➤ Project Approach: Voice of veteran is the key to improving access to veteran centered, culturally relevant competent, sensitive, and effective services. ➤ Project Approach: To ensure that San Mateo County Veterans Needs Assessment and Outreach study is appropriately centered on the unique needs and preferences of veterans and their families. ➤ CIVIX experts have been working with veterans in Northern California since 2008 ➤ CIVIX have coordinated local collaborative efforts with the Supportive Services for Veterans Families program. (SSVF) ➤ Led VA Palo Alto Health Care System’s Enhanced Use Lease (EUL) housing development project and coordinated Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention Program (VHHP) efforts on behalf of the Domiciliary Service. ➤ Planning for Collaboration: How can CIVIX best collaborate with the Commission to ensure these goals are met? Are there areas of secondary focus you would like CIVIX to keep in mind? What focus groups align with your vision? ➤ Currently CIVIX is proposing the following focus groups: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Veterans Newly Separated from Military Service 2. Senior Veterans 3. San Mateo County Veterans Commission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No additional actions or steps

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<p>Veterans Commission Business (continued)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CIVIX to work with Francisco Olivia’s sub-committee on veterans Needs Assessment ○ Hank Scherf, Veteran of the Year Event 2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Will have a speaker, LT General H.R. Master ➤ Veteran of the Year will be a virtual event for 2020 ➤ Picked Veteran of the Year, Patriot of the Year, Enterprise of the Year <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.VOTY-Dan Smith, Redwood City Police Officer 2.POTY-Rich and Robin Harmison 3.EOTY-Rebuilding Together ➤ Working to have Veteran of the Year awards Nov 10th ➤ Brad Kingston to produce Veteran of the Year awards show ○ Francisco Olivia, Budget Workgroup Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sub-Committee established with Fred Baer, Hank Scherf, Donna Vaillancourt ➤ Going to try to use the Veterans Trust Fund ➤ San Mateo County Veterans Trust Fund Policy is used to accept monetary donations that are restrict to sponsorships and unrestricted general donations from individuals, non-government organizations, and corporations. Funds will be used to support veterans’ initiatives of San Mateo County. ➤ Reviewing verbiage around the Veterans Fund to build an infrastructure to morph this into a budget, where the commission can manage its budgetary needs. ➤ Will review proposal with commission before anything moved forward ➤ Sub-committee has submitted a draft of the revised Veterans Trust Fund Policy to HSA ➤ With-in the Veterans Trust Fund there is emergency funding for veterans to support their needs. ○ Donna Vaillencourt, Veterans Commission Recruitment Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There are three vacancies on the commission, one is permeant and two alternates. ➤ Sub-committee form to find the 3 commission spots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No additional actions or steps
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recruitment closes early October, depending on the number of applicants sub-committee will work with Supervisor Slocum’s Office to determine the review, selection, and interview process. ○ Sub-Committee Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Donna Vaillencourt: Sub-Committee for Needs Assessment Had 8 responded vendors 300 hundred plus pages in response to Needs Assessment Sub-Committee unanimously picked CIVIX 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No additional actions or steps
Announcements from Veterans Commissioners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No Announcements to report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No additional actions or steps
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm. 10 Yes / 0 No 	<p>The next Veterans Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 9th, 2020, at 6:30pm</p>