

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY VETERAN ADVISORY COUNCIL
COUNCIL MINUTES**

Office of Military & Veterans Affairs
5560 Overland Avenue, Suite 310, San Diego, CA 92123

August 11, 2018

Meeting held at Veterans Museum and Memorial Center in Balboa Park (VMMC) 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Helen Horvath, Chair, Member at Large; Anthony “Tony” Stewart, District 1; Ted Kagan (Co-chair), District 2; Tony Teravainen, District 3; John Weaver, District 4; Nancy Owen, Member at Large (Secretary); Karolyn Smith, Member at Large; Wil Quintong, OMVA Director, OMVA Ex-Officio

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kyle Sand; San Diego Senior Counsel; Jennie Reza, OMVA Office Secretary

EXCUSED MEMBERS:

Oscar Gomez, District 5; Jesse W. Robinson Jr., Member at Large

1. Call to Order

The Veterans Advisory Council (VAC) meeting was called to Order by Helen Horvath, Chair at 9:37 am.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Jennie Reza

3. Introductions

4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Tony Stewart had some recommendations for changes in minutes which was submitted to Nancy Owen. Helen Horvath would like changes to be typed and sent to all members prior to the following meeting for discussion.

There was a motion by Ted Kagan to approve July meeting minutes as corrected. Motion seconded by Karolyn Smith and passed by all. The motion passes.

5. Chair’s Report/Remarks

The Chair reminded everyone that the meeting is a public forum and statements and comments are recorded. Discussion with Mr. Sands, HHS General Counsel relating to the procedures for the minutes. The Chair, Helen Horvath would like to streamline the process. Meeting minutes to be completed within 2 weeks after VAC meeting and sent to the Secretary and Chair for

review and corrections. Final draft of meeting minutes will be sent to all members to review/comments.

6. By-Laws / Brown Act

Mr. Sand from County Counsel Office conducted training on Brown Act as it relates to the work the Council performs. Key to this is that the Council's business needs to be made public as the Brown Act applies to all legislative bodies.

7. Reports

A: Legislative

Tony Stewart has attached a copy of last month's Legislative Report to be added to the minutes. Tracking the Military Spouse Employment Act 2018. There has been no progress since February 2018.

B: One VA

Helen Horvath sent out a message regarding key issues that will be attached to the minutes. Key issues are process of claims, harassment. The National Center for Organizational Development for the VA is seeking contracts to change the organizational culture. Has questions regarding the number of people who are under Alzheimer's care with the VA. Mr. Prieb is the Director of the Regional Office in Mission Valley while Dr. Smith is the Veteran Health Administration Regional Director in the San Diego region.

C: Veterans Home

There is no meeting until September. Tony Stewart states there is a concentrated effort to change and update the landscape and recreational areas such as golf putting green and horseshoe pits. Us4Warriors will take on project. If there is any group that would like to provide monetary support, contact Tony Stewart.

D: San Diego Veterans Coalition (SDVC)

Helen Horvath discussed Fast Pitch, a business program relating to Military and Veteran's spouse conference in September. Ron Stark has been sent an email with regards to questions about conference. Fast Pitch is a meeting with Angel Investors to get funding for business. An entrepreneur can submit an application at www.veteranentrepreneursubmit.vet. Contact Maurice Wilson for more information.

E: Office of Military & Veterans Affairs (OMVA)

Wil Quintong shared that Vet Connect in Fallbrook is opening before end of year. Borrego Springs and the City Library will be next Vet Connect sites. A Veteran Representative is rotating through the City Library.

Expecting to process 7,000 College Fee Waivers this year.

North Coastal Live Well Center move in date is end of August 2018. The Military and Veterans Resource Center (MVRC) will be the only County department in the building. There will be twelve Non-Profits Organizations in the MVRC. The building is primary Mental Health Services. South East San Diego, across from Jacobs Center will have another MVRC. In 3-5

years, the Office of Military and Veterans Resource Center headquarters will be moving to Rosecrans.

Supervisor Horn, District 5, is retiring. The Veterans Forum is November 9, 2018 at North Inland Live Well Center, recognizing Vietnam Veterans. Working on a San Diego edition featuring Vietnam Veterans. Looking for contributors for \$240,000 to fund project.

The Office of Military and Veterans Affairs can assist veterans with DD-214, Military Records, and Nexus Letter.

8. Bi-Laws & Procedures Manual

There was a motion by Nancy Owen to table Procedure Manual. Motion seconded by John Weaver and passed by all.

9. Unfinished Business

All unfinished business has been taken care of during the meeting with Mr. Sand.

10. New Business

John Weaver proposes to put Foster Home for Veterans on the agenda for discussion for informational purposes. Tony Teravainen seconds proposal and passes by all.

Tony Teravainen attended 3rd Annual All California Defense Summit in Sacramento hosted by Governors Military Counsel and the Association of Defense communities. About half of the forum discussed and focused on transitional veterans and getting veterans engaged in their community after military service. Governor Brown was present and addressed group with support. Discussed how CalVet and the State wants to support veterans.

11. Closing Remarks

Helen Horvath asks to send agenda items to Nancy Owen with sufficient time due to following the Brown Act.

Karolyn Smith attended the Non-Profit Warrior Sailing. It is for disabled veterans interested in sailing which provides ASA keelboat certifications. Karolyn Smith will forward information to all.

Tony Stewart discussed the Military Youth School Bash on August 25, 2018. Grades K-12 will receive backpacks at Veterans Park in Imperial Beach.

Us4Warriors has an Annual Vanguard Star Award recipient. Tony Teravainen is the award recipient. He is also Us4Warriors's nominee for San Diego Veteran of the Year.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 am