

SAN DIEGO MILITARY & VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

January 12, 2019

Meeting held at County Operations Center (COC) 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; Nancy Owen, Member at Large; Karolyn Smith, Member at Large.

EXCUSED MEMBERS:

John Weaver, District 4

OTHERS PRESENT:

Wil Quintong, OMVA Director; Lewis “Jeff” Lee, Chaplain; Lance Lunker, CalVet – LINC; Jennie Reza, OMVA secretary

1. Call to Order

The Veterans Advisory Council (VAC) meeting was called to Order by Helen Horvath, Chair at 9:48 am.

2. Pledge of Allegiance Led by Karolyn Smith

3. Introductions. The Chair introduced Chaplain Lee. The Council also recognized Lance Lunker, CalVet LINC.

4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

There was a motion by Karolyn Smith to approve December’s meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Ted Kagan and passed by all.

5. Chair’s Report/Remarks Alzheimer’s Care Project

Dr. Horvath confirmed that Oscar Gomez’s seat had been opened and that the BOS staff have been notified. In addition, Nancy Owen asked if Jesse Robinson’s member at large seat was officially vacated; it had been as of the end of December 2018. Notification had been sent out through the clerk of the Board of Supervisors that two vacancies existed. One vacancy was for Supervisor Desmond and the other was the member at large seat.

Helen Horvath informed the Council that John Weaver requested that the Council consider examination of a former project relating to Veteran hiring practices within San Diego County

and local governments. Information was provided to the members. From this entry discussion, other members suggested a variety of topics for 2019 Projects. Tony Stewart suggested the Council determine how many projects would be completed in 2019 along with ownership of each project; e.g. who will take the project on as a sponsor? Lastly, which projects will be chosen (includes scope and basis for selection).

Each Council member made suggestions for projects that resonated with each of them. During the discussion, multiple topics that included homelessness, military spouse unemployment, career services, senior veteran issues, and other just as important issues were discussed. Council members discussed a variety of methods to select projects based upon economic impact, Board of Supervisor interest, and coordination of project sponsorship or ownership.

The Chair, Dr. Horvath, discussed requirements for submission to the Board of Supervisors relating to projects. It was requested by the Chair that the Council members arrive to the next meeting prepared to discuss potential projects. Dr. Horvath requested each project suggested have an advocate or advocates with a researched brief to be disseminated prior to the next meeting in order to be considered for the projects. These will then be discussed during the February 2019 meeting.

There was a motion by Tony Stewart to table the decisions on specific Project topics until the Council's February 2019 meeting. The motion passed by all.

6. Reports

A: Legislative

Tony Stewart provided Electronic Legislative Report.

B: One VA Community Advisory Board

During the month of December, OneVA did not hold a meeting.

C: Chula Vista Veterans Home(CVVH)

Dr. Horvath, Chair, attended the CVVH Board meeting on December 13, 2018. Tony Stewart and Nancy Owen discussed the current items of impact ongoing at the Chula Vista Veterans Home. The CVVH Golf tournament will be held in Eastlake on May 9, 2019 at 12:00PM. Flyers will be sent out shortly for dissemination. Tony Stewart discussed the recent renovations at the CVVH along with the finances. Tony Stewart's non-profit, US4Warriors, and the Elks Lodge have been able to bring down the cost of renovations from \$40K to \$20K. The balance of the costs have been submitted via a grant proposal to the County for approval.

D: San Diego Veterans Coalition (SDVC)

Tony Teravainen requested agenda item SDVC be changed to "external support services". The SDVC typically meet once a month. Ninety (90) people attended the

most recent SDVC meeting January 4, 2019. This meeting provides a good network opportunity.

San Diego Military Family and Collaborative (SDMFC). The SDMFC will have a meeting at the end of the month. There are 180 agencies that support military families in different ways throughout San Diego.

Coast Guard City Committee. Tony Teravainen is the Chair. San Diego was designated as a Coast Guard City 2 years ago and is considered the largest in the Coast Guard sectors. The San Diego Sector area is comprised of the Southern Border up to Dana Point and Inland to include including Arizona and up to Hoover Dam outside of Las Vegas. In San Diego County there is about 717 Coast Guard Service Members at three different major commands. Due to the fact that the Federal government is shut down, and Homeland Security employees and service members are impacted, eleven (11) major missions have been put on hold until the funding issues are resolved. At the same time, many of the Coast Guard are considered ‘mission essential’ and must continue to work without pay until Homeland Security is fully funded. Basically, if the San Diego Sector Coast Guard is called to complete a rescue, such as an emergency on Mission Bay or the ocean, the Coast Guard staff are required to respond. This includes Customs and Border Protection activities supported by the Coast Guard.

San Diego Regional Chambers of Commerce Defense, Veterans & Military Affairs Committee. Tony Teravainen stated there was no meeting held.

Citizens Equal Opportunity Commissions for San Diego. Tony Teravainen stated that as an appointed Commissioner, the Commissions are currently working with the City Council to implement a veteran’s preference policy for small businesses without violating Prop 209.

E: Office of Military & Veterans Affairs (OMVA)

Wil Quintong announces Jim Desmond and Nathan Fletcher were sworn in to the Board of Supervisors, both are veterans. Supervisor Nathan Fletcher spoke during the County Administrative Office (CAO) senior leadership meeting. He stressed key issues impacting the veteran population includes homelessness, high rate of veteran suicides, and deported veterans. He has an agenda for supporting our veterans along with Supervisor Desmond from District 5.

Mr. Quintong discussed the opening of the Borrego Springs Vet Connect in late December. He has also requested additional funding for positions within OMVA to support the mission of serving active duty service members and veterans. Mr. Quintong stated that the VSR vacancy position was filed by Chris Martinez. The largest area and number of claims filed to the VA occurred at the Oceanside MVRC and the Oceanside VA Clinic.

Marketing Material. Mr. Quintong announced that the Council will get binders and name tags to support the growing mission of the Council.

7. Unfinished Business

A: By-Laws. The by-laws review has been an ongoing project since October 2017. The original by-laws revision was approved on February 25, 2018 during a special meeting. The redline copy was reviewed by Mr. Sand, County General Counsel, and subsequently reviewed by the MVAC in December 2018 to incorporate the recommended changes by General Counsel to the document. The document was reviewed, modified, and approved by the Council in December 2018 at the SD MVAC meeting. The Council updated Mr. Quintong on the previous month's actions regarding the completion of the by-laws.

Karolyn Smith made a motion to approve the By-Laws as based upon the December 2018 approved copy provided to the OMVA by Ms. Reza and the Council. Tony Teravainen seconded. The motion was approved by all Council members without disagreement.

It was determined that the By-Laws will be reviewed after Ms. Reza removes the red lines and formats the document. Once the document is reviewed, Dr. Horvath will send the revised by-laws from the Council directly to Board of Supervisors with Mr. Quintong receiving a copy as the ex-officio representative for DHS. County procedure required the Council to send a signed letter along with the by-laws revision to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors. The Chair will provide a courtesy copy to Ms. Dupont of Board of Supervisor Jacob's office.

B: Procedures Manual. Upon approval of the By-Laws, the Council agreed that the Procedure Manual will become a priority. Nancy Owen, Council Secretary, will begin designing an outline for the prototype.

8. New Business.

- a. Dr. Horvath announced that the February 9, 2019 meeting will be held in COC Overland. Mr. Quintong asked if the Council would like to remain at the COC location vice the Veterans Museum at Balboa Park. The Council agreed to continue to meet at the COC.
- b. It was suggested/requested that visitors be agendized relating to introductions of guests and that public comments segment be added to the agenda within the beginning of the meeting in order to permit guest to provide public comment based upon an allotted time period.
- c. Karolyn Smith notified the Council that she may not be available in February for the next meeting. She will be provided an excused absence as needed.

9. Meeting adjourned at 11:28 am