

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

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

November 18, 2017

Meeting Held at the Veterans Museum and Memorial Center in Balboa Park (VMMC) from 9:30 am to 11:25 am.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Helen Horvath, Chair, Member at Large; Ted Kagan, Vice Chair, District 2; Nancy Owen, Secretary, Member-at-Large; John Weaver, District 4; Carl "Rick" Huenefeld II, District 5

MEMBERS ABSENT

Anthony Stewart, District 1 (E) (Input from member is under Attachment A)

OTHERS PRESENT

Wilfred Quintong, Director of the Office of Military & Veterans Affairs, County of San Diego; Jesse Robinson, retired Navy, pending member

1. Call to Order

The Veterans Advisory Council (VAC) meeting was called to Order by Helen Horvath, Chair

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Wilfred Quintong

3. Introductions/Public

4. Approval of Minutes Previous Meeting

There was a motion by Ted Kagan to approve the minutes of September 9, 2017. Motion seconded by Nancy Owen. Motion passed by all.

5. Chair's Report

Chair Helen said unfinished business and the report will be covered at the beginning of the meeting and group will be working on the By-laws proposed revisions.

6. One VA

Helen Horvath attended the meeting and the following was discussed:

- Harassment at the VA from patients to patients and patients to staff was the topic for most of the meeting; Discussion was tabled until January 2018 for further discussion.
- Wil Quintong added that there is a VA initiative to add more presumptive diagnoses related to Agent Orange.

- VBA Director said Fully Developed Claims (FDC) processing has improved to 93 days completion and is less than the national average.

One VA is going dark in December.

7. Chula Vista Veterans Home (CVVH)

Nancy reported that the Chula Vista Veterans Home Support Foundation (CVVHSF) will have the next quarterly meeting on November 30th. Tony Stewart headed fund raising for Veterans Walk held November 4, 2017 and nearly \$10,000 was raised for the residents at the Chula Vista Veterans Home. A check will be presented at the home's holiday party on December 8.

8. United Veterans Council (UVC)

No updates

9. Office of Military & Veterans Affairs (OMVA)

Wilfred Quintong gave the OMVA updates:

- After the Women Veterans Forum, the office is focusing on servicing our veterans and concentrating on outreach and appointments.
- There is a wait time of two months for appointments in the north county offices at Oceanside and Escondido. Live Well Center in Oceanside opens us in 2018.
- OMVA is losing another VSR, Sara Krueger. She was heading the South Regions Military & Veterans Resource Center in National City.
- OMVA is trying to open another Vet Connect in the Fallbrook library.
- OMVA's office numbers are still higher than any other counties in the State, even Los Angeles County.

No update on the San Diego Veterans Coalition. Wil Quintong said the SDVC does not have a seat on the VAC and they do not need to be on the agenda for regular updates.

Helen wanted to know the process on claims submissions and the role of the County vs the VA. John Weaver explained VA processing and County OMVA processing of claims is entirely different. OMVA does the research, development documenting and preparation of claims and submits them to the VA. The VA will do the overview and review of the objective records, order exams if needed and makes a determination on the claim.

Helen Horvath asked Wil Quintong how the public gets to view the information from the VAC. Wil advised the minutes are posted on the county website for the public to read. The agenda is posted 72 hours in advance online and in the OMVA office. Also the Clerk of the Board has all public records.

Review of By-Laws

Helen Horvath said VAC members appointed by County Supervisors serve terms concurrent with the Supervisor's term. The VAC seat that are tied to that supervisor will vacate once that Supervisor terms out. Recommendations have to be made for reappointments or reinstatements to the County BOS. Members-at-large stay on the council regardless of what happens to the Supervisor who appoints them, until their appointment expires.

Tony Stewart was unable to attend but provided written input and recommendations regarding By-Laws.

Chair discussed following topics for group discussion regarding the revision of the By-laws.

Name Change: Name change to be updated from Veterans Advisory Council to Military & Veterans Advisory Council

Following voting members voted yes to the revision to the By-laws: Ted Kagan, Nancy Owen, Rick Huenefeld II, John Weaver

Motion to change the Veterans Advisory Council name to Military & Veterans Advisory Council name passed.

VAC is considered an Independent Advisory Organization per County Ordinance and an advisory group to the Board of Supervisors attached to Health & Human Services Agency (HHSA) and subsequently to OMVA.

Attendance and Quorum

Can remote attendance be considered for quorum for voting members?

Following voting members voted yes to the revision to the By-laws: Ted Kagan, Nancy Owen, Rick Huenefeld II, John Weaver

Motion to use remote technology to to meet quorum was passed.

Abstaining from Voting

Helen, Chair, asked if it should be included in the By-laws.

Following voting members voted no to the revision to the By-laws: Ted Kagan, Nancy Owen, Rick Huenefeld II, John Weaver

Motion not passed to add abstaining from voting into the Bylaws by the majority members.

Quorum

More than half of the appointed voting members must be present to meet quorum.

Following voting members voted yes to the revision to the By-laws: Ted Kagan, Nancy Owen, Rick Huenefeld II, John Weaver

Motion to add "more than half of appointed of voting members must be present to meet quorum" passed.

Absences

Excused vs Unexcused.

Should the definition on the By-laws be kept or changed? 3 consecutive missed meetings or 1/3 of the scheduled meetings in any 12 month period required attendance.

Following voting members voted no to the revision to the By-laws: Ted Kagan, Nancy Owen, Rick Huenefeld II, John Weaver

Motion to keep the Bylaws as they are regarding unexcused absences passed.

The VAC Secretary, Nancy Owen, will create a spreadsheet to track member's attendance.

Meeting schedules and when to meet

The council may establish subcommittees as needed to deal with issues or interest focus areas and all subcommittees should have at least one voting member of the council participating

Following voting members voted yes to the revision: Ted Kagan, Nancy Owen, Rick Huenefeld II, John Weaver

Motion to establish subcommittees as needed to deal with issues of interest focus areas and all subcommittees should have at least one voting member of the council participating passed.

Procedural:

An active subcommittee will be listed on the agenda to be reporting in every meeting.

Executive Committee meetings

Is an executive committee needed? Chair, Vice-chair and Secretary

Discussion decided it is not needed to create an Executive Committee

Meeting Location

Eliminating the specific location of the meeting on the Bylaws and changing the wording from meeting at the Veterans Museum to meeting at a public accessible location.

Following voting members voted yes to the revision on the By-laws: Ted Kagan, Nancy Owen, Rick Huenefeld II, John Weaver

Motion to change the wording on the Bylaws to read the meeting will be held at a public accessible location passed by the majority of voting members.

When to meet

Should meetings be scheduled by-monthly?

Following voting members voted yes to the revision on the By-laws: Ted Kagan, Nancy Owen, Rick Huenefeld II, John Weaver

Motion to change the wording on the Bylaws to read meetings will be held bi-monthly passed by the majority of voting members.

Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors

An annual written report should be done to the Board of Supervisors to advise of what the council worked or is working on

Following voting members voted yes to the revision on the By-laws: Ted Kagan, Nancy Owen, Rick Huenefeld II, John Weaver

Motion to revise the By-laws to prepare annual report to the Board of Supervisors passed by majority of voting members.

Remove Navy Region Southwest as a voting member

Following voting members voted yes to the revision on the By-laws: Ted Kagan, Nancy Owen, Rick Huenefeld II, John Weaver

Motion passed to remove Navy Region Southwest as a voting member passed by majority of voting members.

Adjourned at 11:10 AM

ATTACHMENT A

Dusso, Hilda

From: tony@us4warriors.org
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2017 12:35 PM
To: Huenefeld CIV Carl F II; Helen Horvath
Cc: Ted Kagan; Nancy Owen; John Weaver; Jesse Robinson; Quintong, Wilfred; Dusso, Hilda
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] November Meeting

Sorry, guys! Keeping up with the emails is a little bit of a challenge at present. That said, here is some input.

Monthly Schedules. I would need much more clarity from the County regarding what is required. I do know that at the City level, the charter dictates monthly meetings. If we miss a meeting, we have to announce it with a reason (most generally, stating "meeting not held due to lack of an agenda"). This is very common among the reactive, static groups that merely gather awaiting for an agenda. Generally, singular in purpose and not associated with a community. However, not very common for veteran council/commissions charged with supporting the veterans community. The policies are so rigid that when a change in venue occurs, the bylaws need to change as well. At the City level, when we moved our meetings, they became a "Special Meeting" until the bylaws were updated/accepted. So, I can understand the logic or path of sticking with monthly schedules until the Bylaws are approved. That said, I believe there is maneuverability if consensus is such to move forward with bi-monthly meetings. I am on several, probably just as many boards as the rest, work for DoD, run a non-profit and a company, as well. Time management is a big piece of that and a routine schedule is a firm root for me to effectively contribute.

Public Comments. I agree that the bounds of public contribution should be merely filling out a comment card if that be the mechanism to use. I don't think it goes beyond that. I also believe in maintaining it strictly as an agenda item. For speaking, 3 minutes is a standard and helps control the flow and encourages the public contributor to limit and provide well thought out comments. If additional time is needed, it may (or may not) be provided and should be at the move of a council member. I have been in sessions where multiple individuals were present to speak on multiple issues. It can go on and on without presenting a standard. I am firmly against curbing the public contribution, but know that standards are welcomed by contributors as long as all are fair and known in advance. That said, if a person from the public has been specifically invited by a council member to speak regarding an issue, then I think that should be known and it can be placed on the agenda as such. Which makes it more of the SME and not a public comment.

Mission, roles & responsibilities. It is always a good thing to have a solid mission. Other than what I received when asking Supervisor Cox directly which was asking for us to be proactive and engaged with the veterans community vice waiting for orders, I haven't received a confined area, laid out plan or charted direction laid out for us. I think that if we continue to work through it and propose one within the Bylaws, that will give the BOS the ability to either give us course correction or tweaking here and there. I will defer to Wil regarding the mission of OMVA and look forward to learning more and being able to provide further input based on that information. As we work through it, I hope that each council member speaks with their supervisor to get further insight. In addition, we can also invite Supervisors or their staff to attend a meeting where council members can ask that which is needed to clarify the current Commander's Intent. I get it. It is a worthy and good pursuit. Doing so together may allow for us to work through it. Meanwhile, we keep pressing forward to solidify that narrative.

Social Media. I would refer to Wil as to whether there is guidance from the County regarding what is permitted regarding Facebook, etc. Most of the time, there is policy regarding the pages and permission needed to do so when representing a government agency.

Annual Report. We can only offer what we have seen this year, but I do believe it is worth presenting something. There should be a template to tell us what is desired as well.

All for now. See you at the next meeting.

Happy Thanksgiving to you all!