

SAN DIEGO MILITARY & VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

June 8, 2019

Meeting held at County Operations Center (COC) 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Helen Horvath, Chair, Member at Large; Ted Kagan, Vice-Chair, District 2; Tony Teravainen, District 3; Jack Harkins, District 4; Mia Roseberry, District 5; Austin Miller, Member at Large; Nancy Owen, Secretary, Member at Large; Karolyn Smith, Member at Large.

EXCUSED MEMBERS:

Anthony “Tony” Stewart, District 1

OTHERS PRESENT:

Wil Quintong, OMVA Director; Charlene Autolino, San Diego Reentry Round; Jennie Reza, OMVA secretary

1. Call to Order

The Military & Veterans Advisory Council (MVAC) meeting was called to order by Helen Horvath, Chair at 9:37 am.

2. Pledge of Allegiance Led by Jack Harkins

3. Introductions Welcome Mia Roseberry and Austin Miller.

4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

There was a motion by Tony Teravainen to approve the SDMVAC’s May 2019 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Karolyn Smith and passed by all.

5. Chair’s comments and Council discussion (old business)

- a) The Chair concluded that the initial version of By-Laws were initially completed in February 2018 by the Council. The most recent iteration of the By-Laws was approved by a majority vote in January 2019 and approved by a majority vote in the January 2019 minutes. The By-Laws are the structure of the Council. The Procedural Manual is the next item that needs completion after approval by the Board of Supervisors. The Procedures Manual will outline how things operate within the Council.
- b) Wil Quintong shared and requested approval of The Draft Agenda Board Letter by the Council. The letter will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in July 9, 2019. Wil Quintong mentioned the Chair of SDMVAC will continue to represent the Advisory Council in the One VA according to the by-laws.

- c) Wil Quintong informs Council members he will have a conversation with Ron Stark and the OneVA to allow the supervisory districts to send representation. Chair mentioned that the BOS staff already has designated members in attendance.
- d) Helen Horvath informed all, if interested in joining the OneVA, one would have to follow procedures and go to the OneVA CAB to request admission outside of the MVAC. The Chair previously provided copies of the OneVA CAB Charter that outlines procedures.
- e) Helen Horvath is meeting with Supervisor Dianne Jacob prior to the next meeting. The discussion will include OneVA CAB membership.
- f) In August 2018, while attending the MVAC meeting, Helen Horvath suggested to the BOS staff, as members of the OneVA, to attend the meetings.
- g) The Chair has been working to align the County with the VA services available for veterans in the county for projects such as healthcare and homelessness. It was suggested by Council members that potentially the County BOS staff does not attend as the perception is that the meeting is based upon Federal issues.
- h) Helen Horvath attended VetConnect Meeting sponsored by Viejas Enterprises. OMV, Congressman Peters and staff were in attendance with key community leaders participating in the program. The event supported veteran's services and employment. Shya Ellis-Flint from VCC has resigned.

6. Reports

a. District 1

1). Tony Stewart shared update via email on 6/7/2019 that was discussed by the Chair with the Council.

(2). Flag Retirement Program is a partnership between County Libraries, Boy Scouts of America, American Legion and Us4Warriors Foundation. 81 disposal bins will be placed at libraries throughout the County. The goal is to begin on July 5th. Supervisor Cox and partners will be discussing matter on KUSI and other media outlets.

(3). Karolyn Smith questions Tony Stewart's absence. "Tony Stewart was allowed to be absent without a medical issue?" Karolyn Smith wanted to place her concern for his absence in the record. Absences are a matter of public record available from the Council Secretary per the Chair, Helen Horvath.

b. One VA CAB

- (1). Helen Horvath attended May's meeting. Discussion and training on Veteran Suicide.
- (2). Mr. Prieb discussed issues relating to processing claims. The fast track process was discussed. Helen Horvath recommends all Council members to review Mission Act, found on the VA website.

c. Veterans Home

- (1) Nancy Owen declares the Golf Tournament was successful and raised almost 25K. The Veterans Home Foundation provides monetary support for quality of life items and services for 305 residents when the State cannot fund.

(2) Tony Stewart is working on a project to renovate the horseshoe pit at the Veterans Home through his foundation.

d. District 2

Ted Kagan announced the Legislation on Veteran's Housing Section 8 is still in committee, more updates to be follow in the near months to come.

e. District 3

Tony Teravainen submits a copy of report to all members relating to his community activities.

f. District 4

(1) Jack Harkins holds a seat in the Defense Veterans & Military Affairs Committee of the Regional Chambers of Commerce. Legislation was discussed on pending bill to exempt military retirement pay from state income tax collection. Bill has moved to Appropriation Committee.

(2) Jack Harkins announces upcoming events with SDMAC.

- June 13, 2019 will hold 12th Annual Achievement Award.
- June 27, 2019 Breakfast with Guest speaker Vice Admiral C. Forrest Faison, Surgeon General of the Navy.
- October 10, 2019 Rollout for SDMAC Military Economic Impact Study with Focus on SPAWAR.

Jack Harkins reports United Veteran Council held reception for Military Gold Star spouses. Supervisor Fletcher will attend meeting in June for the United Veteran Council.

g. District 5. No report. New member, Mia Roseberry, was presented to Council.

h. Karolyn Smith

Karolyn Smith sits on the board for Association of The United States Army (AUSA).

June 14, 2019, the Association of the United States Army will sponsor a luncheon at the Admiral Baker Field. Cost is \$10 and reservations can be made online with an RSVP.

i. Office of Military & Veterans Affairs (OMVA)

(a) By-Laws. New Business.

Wil Quintong requested approval from the Council to accept the BOS Agenda Item Draft letter. Ted Kagan makes a motion to accept the Draft letter for revising the SDMVAC By-Laws, Tony Teravainen seconds and motion. Jack Harkins abstained based upon non-concurrence with the draft By-Laws – specifically in relationship to the OneVA. Mia Roseberry and Austin Miller abstained as a result of their not knowing enough about the issues. Motion passed with quorum.

7. New Business

Jack Harkins submits The Council accepts nominations for the executive positions within the Council that will be up for elections in 2019. The existing By-Laws calls for nominations to be

accepted in June & July meetings. After discussion of new by-laws (pending) and current by-laws, the Chair accepted nominations. The vote will be conducted based upon the by-laws version at the time of the vote. Jack Harkins submitted that the Council should adhere to the current by-laws. The current by-laws may be changed on July 9, 2019 at the Board of Supervisor's meeting. If that is the case the Council agreed to cancel the July 2019 meeting to adhere to the new by-laws meeting schedule.

The Chair announced that she would like to continue her work as Chair (self-nomination).

Jack Harkins nominated Tony Teravainen for Council Chair. The Chair mentioned Tony Teravainen's various responsibilities within the community that may impact the ability to effectively operate as Chair. Some of these responsibilities may conflict with Brown Act, AB1234 rules and regulations that guide the Council. Karolyn Smith seconded the nomination for Tony Teravainen for Council Chair. Tony Teravainen accepted the nomination for Council Chair.

The Chair has been working to remind members of the requirement to adhere to Brown Act, AB 1234, and conflicts of interest between non-council work and council work.

Karolyn Smith self-nominated herself as the Vice Chair.

The open positions covered under the 2019 elections will be Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. Additional nominations will take place at the next MVAC Council meeting. The Chair asked if there were any other nominations for the June 2019 meeting. No other nominations were declared. The vote will take place at the next required meeting under the by-laws that are in force at the time of the election (July or August 2019). The Council voted to have the meeting in August 2019 if the by-laws are approved on July 9, 2019.

8. Guest Speaker – Charlene Autolino, San Diego Re-Entry Roundtable.

Ms. Autolino presented information, utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, to the Council relating to release of veterans and civilians within the community after completion of their sentence. The discussion centered primarily upon veterans who are released along with community services eligible upon release. There are eight jails in the County that are run by the Sheriff's Department. Vista Jail is the only jail in the County that has a veteran's module. The VA Outreach team and Justice Outreach team member, Angela Simmons, goes to the Vista jail regularly to meet with incarcerated veterans.

Ms. Autolino provided information relating to the San Diego Re-Entry Roundtable. The mission of the Re-Entry Roundtable is "to promote the safe and successful return of offenders to our community." The Roundtable consists of Criminal Justice Partners. Meetings are held in South Metro Career Center with an average of 60-80 attendees.

Ms. Autolino provided a copy of her PowerPoint presentation for review and distribution to all Council members.

9. Closing Remarks

- a) If new By-Laws are passed the next Council Meeting is scheduled for August.
The Council voted and agreed to meet in August 2019 if by-laws are approved.
- b) The nominations/voting will take place at the next meeting.
- c) The Chair reiterated to the Council members that the attendance records are available from the Secretary. Additionally, the attendance policy is contained within the By-Laws.

10. Meeting adjourned at 11:26 am