

**Veterans Commission Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2018**

Present: Hank Scherf, Brandon Jones, Mark Leach, Kai Martin, Linda Meyer, Francisco Oliva, Ben Renda, and Ron Dickson

Absent: George Smith and Jacob Pletcher

Staff: Supervisor Slocum, Marci Dragun, Supervisor Slocum's Office, Norman Aleman, CVSO HSA

Public Comments by: Ms. Therese Dyer, Mr. Elmer Madrid, Mr. Martin Fox, and Ms. Joana Arteaga la Spina

Topic	Discussion	Action/Next Steps
Meeting Called to order and pledge of allegiance recited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pledge of allegiance and roll call taken. 	No additional actions or steps needed.
Approval of prior meeting minutes and Adoption of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes from the July meeting were adopted. Agenda for tonight's meeting was approved. • Moment of silence in remembrance of September 11, 2001 	No additional actions or steps needed.
Public Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public comments given by two in the audience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ms. Therese Dyer made comments on serving women veterans and mentioned taking a survey regarding veteran legal issues. ○ Mr. Madrid informed the commission of the upcoming BBQ at the San Bruno VA in remembrance of 9/11. Also made note of Supervisor Pine being in attendance. Expressed his desires to work with the commission to bring all veterans together. ○ Mr. Thomas Weissmille spoke about the upcoming BBQ at the San Bruno VA and mentioned this year will be the 100th anniversary of WW I and how the county played a pivotal role in training troops for the war. ○ Mr. Martin Fox spoke about the cash bail and the new risk assessment systems being introduced in California. Mr. Fox feels this would be detrimental for veterans with combat experience or combat MOSs. 	No additional actions or steps needed.

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Veteran Commission Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oath of Loyalty – Ms. Donna Vaillancourt took the oath of loyalty to become an alternate member on the commission. • Veteran Suicide Prevention - Mr. Frederick Macrae, VAMC Palo Alto spoke about the nationwide crisis of veteran suicides. • Commission Priorities 2018-2019 - Commissioner Martin informed the commission of the upcoming sub-group meeting. • Housing Sub-Committee - Commissioner Dickson provided a brief update on what’s currently happening. Also mentioned 171 veterans are housed under the HUD VASH program and the efforts of the group in providing furniture to those being housed. To date, they have four new landlords to accept veterans under this program. • Strategic Marketing Sub-Committee – Commissioner Oliva discussed progress in developing a strategic plan. The group is looking at ways to connect veterans with CVSO and other services. Also provided with possible actions after developing the plan. The end state is to get veterans and their families to the CVSO office and connect with services. • Veteran of the Year Luncheon - Chair Scherf provided an update on the veteran of the year luncheon by announcing the final date to submit nominations and that LTG. Huly, USMC (Ret) will be the keynote speaker. 	<p>Supervisor Warren Slocum administered the oath of loyalty.</p> <p>See handouts.</p> <p>Sub-committee will meet to address the issues.</p> <p>Will continue to move forward with helping to end veteran homelessness in the county.</p> <p>Committee will continue to meet and develop the proposal.</p> <p>Meeting is being scheduled to being the planning.</p>
Report from CVSO Liaison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CVSO Norman Aleman provided the report. 	See attachment for report.
Announcements from Veterans Commissioners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Joanna Arteaga La Spina announced the upcoming Latinx Veteran panel program being hosted by the San Carlos American Legion. • Commissioner Meyer made a comment about using the libraries as an employment resource for veterans. 	No additional steps.
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting adjourned at 8pm 	Next Commission meeting is November 5, 2018 at 6:30pm