

**CITY OF LAKE STEVENS  
VETERANS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, October 2, 2017  
Lake Stevens Community Center  
1808 Main Street, Lake Stevens

CALL TO ORDER: 6:59 p.m. by Chairman Leif Hamar

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Shawn Frederick, Gayle McCurdy, Stacy LaFlam, Dennis Ives, Melissa Ballou, Richard Russell, Leif Hamar, Cameron Balazic, Kim Daughtry, Kurt Hilt

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Richard Russell, Kurt Hilt, Marcus Tageant

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Deputy City Clerk Kathy Pugh

OTHERS: Mike Shindler and Lori Grant, Operation Military Family Cares, Tom Thorleifson, American Legion, Michele Hampton and James Hampton

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**Call to Order:** Chairman Hamar called the meeting to order at 6:59 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Chairman Hamar led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call:** Moved by Commissioner Daughtry, seconded by Commissioner McCurdy, to excuse Commissioners Russell, Hilt and Tageant. On vote the motion carried (8-0-0-3).

**Approval of Minutes:** Chairman Hamar requested the minutes of the September 18, 2017 meeting be corrected at page 2 to show that he is serving in the Army National Guard.

**MOTION:** Moved by Commissioner Daughtry, seconded by Commissioner Frederick, to approve the September 18, 2017 minutes with the noted correction. On vote the motion carried (8-0-0-3).

**Discussion Items:**

**Work Program:**

**Initial Market Review:** Referring to Initiative 1 to address veteran homelessness in the community, Mr. Shindler said that the homeless counts represent a point in time and that in 2015, four people were identified as homeless, in 2016, three people were so identified, and in 2017, five people were so identified. There is no information as to whether these people are veterans.

Discussion ensued and the consensus was that these numbers are quite low; Commissioner LaFlam noted there are 78 identified homeless people in Everett in the count.

Commissioner Ballou suggested that maybe homelessness be considered under a bigger umbrella, such as mental health.

Mr. Shindler suggested homelessness could be placed under the third initiative to leverage veteran talent in the city. He discussed this could include leveraging a pathway to success and looking for ways to solve problems that veterans face, such as higher housing eviction rates, that they may experience.

Commissioner LaFlam agreed with Mr. Shindler's comments and suggested perhaps a prevention program providing opportunity for rapid re-housing could be developed.

Ms. Grant suggested the topic title could be changed.

Commissioner Daughtry thought perhaps this is two topics and not one, and he also cautioned that however the commission moves forward, it needs to be careful to not upset other service organizations.

Mr. Shindler agreed with Commissioner Daughtry's comments and said that the initiative can be tightened up and aligned with a broader priority. He added that Ms. Grant will be interviewing all commissioners prior to the next meeting to better identify what the priorities are. He also noted that the reviews of the veteran population projections for the years 2016-2018 do not include veterans who are relocating to Snohomish County.

Commissioner LaFlam concurred, and commented they are seeing an increase in the veteran population in Snohomish County.

Ms. Grant suggested establishing a support system plan to address veteran challenges or issues in the community.

Mr. Shindler added this would address 15-20 issues, such as housing, transportation, daycare, etc.

Commissioner Balazic wondered what a support system would like, and how would the commission make it happen.

Commissioner Daughtry commented there is no need to begin from scratch; a support system plan would still need to be rolled into the commission's goals and plans. He added there is a benefit to doing a strategic plan.

Mr. Shindler agreed that a strategic plan will be important once the thematics and goals are determined.

Three Target Accomplishments: Discussion ensued and Commissioner Ballou suggested folding the first goal into the second.

Ms. Grant responded that goals one and 2 are different in that one is overreaching, and the other is coordinated to the Community Center. She identified that Goal 1 could be a plan with options and be more actionable, Goal 2 could be leveraging other organizations, and Goal 3 could fall with the Community Center concept.

Mr. Shindler added that the different initiatives will need different resources, such as teaming with the American Legion, City Council and other organizations.

Commissioner Frederick likes the goal of establishing a support system plan, and sees it as purposefully broad.

Commissioner Balazic commented Goal 1 is the most organic.

**MOTION:** Moved by Commissioner McGurdy, seconded by Commissioner LaFlam, to amend Goal 1 to "establish a support plan to address veterans' challenges in the city." On vote the motion carried (8-0-0-3).

Ms. Grant said that she and Mr. Shindler will provide deliverables at the November meeting, following interviews with the commissioners. The interviews will help to develop common themes and ideas that are more actionable.

Referencing Goal 3, Mr. Shindler reviewed why Lake Stevens is good for veterans and said it needs to be determined whether to measure at a national scale and state level.

Commissioner Daughtry commented that Boeing might be a good resource for veterans.

Referencing a handout related to the upcoming interviews, Ms. Grant asked that everyone review the documents and rank their priorities before their interview.

**Establishing Team Synergy:** Mr. Shindler commented on the importance of team synergy. He reviewed the questions to be asked and requested that everyone really think about the questions prior to their interview. Through the interview, he and Ms. Grant will be looking to identify common themes, define how the commission will behave and what the commission will do, how the commission will succeed, priorities, and also identify roles to accomplish the goals.

Responding to Mr. Thorleifsen's question, Commissioner Daughtry said the plans need to run concurrently, with subcommittees being formed. There is not support for lineal plans.

Commissioner Ballou said she was contacted by a Lake Stevens School District teacher regarding supporting military children in the schools, and wondered if it was appropriate to provide suggestions to the teacher.

Commissioner Daughtry responded it is important to remember that the commissioners are representatives of the commission when interacting with the public.

There was consensus that working with the school district is a good opportunity.

Ms. Grant suggested the commission consider setting a policy on who can talk to the public, and also, that it is important when talking to the public to be careful not to inadvertently set a commission policy.

**Adjourn:**

There being no further business Chairman Hamar adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.



Leif Hamar, Chairperson



Kathy Pugh, Deputy City Clerk