

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

Monday, July 2, 2018
Lake Stevens Community Center
1808 Main Street, Lake Stevens

CALL TO ORDER: 7:03 p.m. by Vice Chairman Shawn Frederic

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Cameron Balazic, Dennis Ives, Kim Daughtry, Shawn Frederick, Gayle McCurdy, Marcus Tageant, Samara Heydon (7:15 p.m.)

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Leif Hamar, Stacy LaFlam, Richard Russell, Kurt Hilt

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: City Clerk Kathy Pugh

OTHERS:

Call to Order: Vice Chairman Frederick called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Vice Chairman Frederick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Following the arrival of Commissioner Heydon, moved by Commissioner Tageant, seconded by Commissioner Balazic, to excuse Commissioners Hamar, LaFlam, Russell and Hilt from the meeting. On vote the motion carried (7-0-0-4).

Approval of Minutes: After Commissioner Heydon arrived, moved by Commissioner Balazic, seconded by Commissioner McCurdy, to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2018 meeting. On vote the motion carried (7-0-0-4).

Discussion/Action Items:

Approve Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation: Discussion was deferred until Commissioner Heydon arrived. Commissioner Frederick asked if there were any additional changes to the Articles of Incorporation or the Bylaws for the Veterans Foundation, and there were none.

MOTION: Moved by Commissioner Tageant, seconded by Commissioner Ives, to approve the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws for the Veterans Foundation as drafted. On vote the motion carried (7-0-0-4).

Lake Stevens Police Department Strategic Planning Update: Commissioner Frederick reported on this event, saying there was a good turnout with lots of external community members in attendance. Input from the community was that they want the Police Department involved with youth activities and engagement. He suggested the commission could partner with the police department for youth engagement through activities such as basketball. Commissioner Frederick will follow up with Chief Dyer and asked that commissioners send their ideas to him for sharing.

Commissioner Balazic suggested the Police and Fire Departments could sponsor events and that the Veterans Commission could be present.

Commissioner Daughtry suggested activities such as playing human fuzeball. He said that planned activities will keep the youth in Lake Stevens and that these activities would provide an opportunity for mentorship.

Commissioner Tageant wondered how this would help veterans and said it is important to stay true to the mission and goals of the commission.

Discussion ensued with Commissioners Frederick and Daughtry commenting that engaging with youth would allow veterans to act as mentors, and Commissioner Tageant commenting there are lots of veterans in the community, and the question is how to get support for veterans including jobs, and how to transition into civilian life. (Commissioner Heydon arrived at 7:15 p.m.)

Aquafest: Commissioner Balazic updated on the various give-away items he has researched including pens, stress balls and patches. The stress balls were not affordable, but the pens and patches are. There was consensus to set a \$500 budget for the purchase of pens to use as giveaways at Aquafest.

Commissioner Balazic said he would circulate a sign-up sheet for manning the booth in roughly four hour blocks.

Commissioner Daughtry has a table that can be used and the banner will also be put up.

Also discussed was how to encourage people to provide their email addresses and contact information so that they can be contacted to participate in Commission-sponsored or promoted events and activities, and it was suggested to give pens to those who provide their contact information.

CERT Information Update: Commissioner Ives said this cannot move forward until the Foundation receives its 501(c)(3) designation, and Commissioner LaFlam is working on this. He said that recruiting for the training is the next step, and he envisions recruiting 20-30 people with the expectant that 15-20 people will attend the first class.

Newsletter Update: Discussion was deferred to the August 6, 2018 meeting.

Lake Stevens Veterans Support Award Update: Commissioner Tageant suggested three different awards recognizing: (1) veteran owned and operated businesses, (2) businesses that hire veterans, and (3) businesses that hire former military members and military spouses; a mock-up of the awards could be made so that people can vote on their favorite style of award. If the mock-up was made larger it would provide visibility to the Veterans Commission booth. This was discussed and there was consensus to move forward with the mock-up as suggested by Commissioner Tageant.

Public Comment:

Robert Whittle is a 20-year veteran. He is searching for a suitable building to open a bowling alley and other family-focused activities. He wants to be involved in the community.

Ron LaCount introduced himself and said he is a totally disabled veteran. He teaches a class at Providence Cancer Center and volunteers when other opportunities present themselves.

Mike Guderjohn lived in Lake Stevens and left the Navy after 7 years of service. He said it is hard to think like a civilian and he has to transition every day from military to civilian life. Mr. Guderjohn said he sees veterans falling to the wayside and commented they need someone to help them. He believes presentation a DD214 should be treated like a job application, and he supports the idea of recognizing businesses that employ veterans.

The Commission thanked all of the veteran guests for their service and for coming to tonight's meeting.

Upcoming Agenda Items:

Adjourn:

MOTION: Moved by Commissioner Daughtry, seconded by Commissioner Tageant, to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. On vote the motion carried (7-0-0-4).

 For
Leif Hamar, Chairperson
Shawn Frederick, Vice Chair


Kathy Pugh, City Clerk