



## **COMMUNICATION AND EVENTS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT**

Monday, October 17, 2022 – 5:00 pm

Hosted Remotely via MS Teams

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

BILL BARNICKEL, DOUGLAS BULLARD, JASON CHITAVONG, DEBORAH DACUMOS, COURTNEY ELLINGTON, COURTNEY MILLER, NICHOLAS RUSANOFF, RAYMOND WONG

### **CHAIR**

NICOHOLAS RUSANOFF

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Rusanoff called the meeting to order at 5:05pm. He welcomed committee members and members of the public. It was noted meeting was being recorded through Microsoft Teams and video will post to the VAC website.

### **ATTENDANCE**

VAC Secretary called attendance:

PRESENT: Commissioners Rusanoff (Chair), Barnickel, Chittavong, Dacumos, Miller (5:11pm), Wong

ABSENT: Commissioners Bullard, Ellington

Quorum confirmed.

### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

- August 29, 2022 Meeting Minutes [Action/Vote]
  - Motion – Barnickel / Second – Chittavong
  - Vote: Aye: 5, No: 0, Abstain: 0
  - Motion passed. August 29, 2022 meeting minutes approved.

Absent: Bullard, Ellington, Miller (Commissioner Miller joined meeting after vote)

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Veterans Day Parade – Sunday, November 6, 2022 [Discussion]
  - Chair reminded committee members to respond to email from commission secretary and confirm their participation in Veterans Day Parade. Include in response if you will serve as judge, marshal, or parade marcher. Email responses are due by Wednesday, October 19. Chair thanked Commissioner Wong for his work on the Veterans Day parade.



- Operation Green Light for Veterans [Discussion]
  - Chair requested update from Commissioner Chittavong.
  - Commissioner Chittavong said he will reach out to Commissioners Dacumos and Miller for assistance in notifying City Hall to light green during November 7 - 13. Chair noted 25 days until Veterans Day. Commissioner Chittavong reviewed checklist of action items and requested assistance:
    - Request to City Hall to light green: Commissioner Miller offered to assist.
    - Letter to Representative: Commission secretary drafted letter from template on Operation Green Light website. Commissioner Chittavong has draft and will send to Chair. Time sensitivity of item noted – it cannot wait until next commission meeting on November 8. Commission secretary will email draft letter to full commission for review and input. Letter to be signed by commission president.
    - Resolution Letter to Board of Supervisors: Commissioner Dacumos and Commissioner Chittavong will work together on letter.
    - CVSO participation in Operation Green Light: Commissioner Chittavong spoke briefly with CVSO Elena Kim. He will follow up this week.
- Fleet Week Events – Re-cap from Commissioner Dacumos [Discussion]
  - Commissioner Dacumos commented on importance of engaging with organizers sooner. Organizers faced budget cuts that resulted in staff reduction and caused delays in sending invitations, etc. She volunteered to assist in next year's Fleet Week events planning. Additionally, Commissioner Dacumos highly recommended all commissioners attend future senior leadership conferences. She shared speaker highlights from this year's conference, which included a surgeon in charge of medical surgery in Ukraine, and an excellent presentation by the Ambassador from Poland. The chair thanked Commissioner Dacumos for her dedication and work on Fleet Week events.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Policy Roundtable Event – Location, Time, Agenda, Topics. Submit ideas for review at the next regular commission meeting on November 8. [Discussion]
  - Chair opened floor for committee suggestions. Chair began by recommending following two agenda ideas: contacting Swords to Plowshares about cancellation of contract with Veterans Justice Court, and following-up with MOHCD about implementation to include veterans in housing program.
  - Commissioner Miller suggested including topics of mental health and female veterans issues (including childcare and family care).
  - Commissioner Chittavong suggested Veterans Affairs Commission becoming a chartered commission as a topic item.
  - Chair added topic to address disenfranchised veterans in San Francisco.
  - After discussion, committee recommended event be held remotely sometime in January.



- Wreaths Across America – Mobile Education Exhibit (MEE) [Discussion]
  - Chair noted Commissioners Bullard and Ellington have most familiarity with this program. As both commissioners were absent from meeting, Chair moved item to the next committee meeting agenda and asked for any comments from committee. Chair noted importance of bringing this event to the attention of district supervisors and Mayor's office. Commissioner Barnickel responded supervisors are aware as many have attended past wreath placing events. Commissioner Barnickel further noted he will talk with the past event organizer and forward information to commission secretary. He will update committee at the next meeting.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Meeting opened for public comment. An opportunity for members of the public to directly address the Committee on any matter within the subject matter of the Communication and Events Committee. Members of the public may address the Committee for up to two minutes.

- Public comments included:
  - Commissioner Barnickel shared information about a Halloween block party on October 29 for veterans and veterans' families.
  - December 22 will be a Christmas block party for children – veterans and their families are welcome.
  - Commissioner Wong mentioned his post VFW 4618 San Francisco will host a Christmas dinner on December 3 at the Golden Palace Restaurant. Cost is \$50 per person. Chair requested event details be emailed to commission secretary to post on VAC website.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair adjourned meeting at 5:46pm

The next committee meeting will be held remotely at 5:00pm on Tuesday, November 1, 2022.

Meeting agendas and minutes are posted to the Veterans Affairs Commission website.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Murphy  
Executive Secretary  
SF Veterans Affairs Commission