



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022 – 6:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME/President Mansori

President Mansori called the meeting to order at 6:06PM.

She welcomed commissioners and members of the public, and noted meeting was being recorded through Microsoft TEAMS.

ROLL CALL

The VAC Secretary called the roll:

PRESENT: President Ikram Mansori, Vice-President Stephen Martin-Pinto, Commissioners Joseph Baba, Douglas Bullard, William Barnickel, Hanley Chan, Jason Chittavong, Deborah Dacumos, Courtney Ellington, Christopher McDonald, Courtney Miller, Jordan Sun

ABSENT: Commissioners Olivieri (absent), Rusanoff (excused), Wong (excused)

Quorum present.

AGENDA CHANGES

President Mansori called for motion to approve agenda.

Motion – Barnickel / Second – Miller

All in Favor – 12 / Opposed – 0 / Abstain – 0.

Motion passed. Agenda set.

Absent: Commissioners Olivieri, Rusanoff, Wong

COMMUNICATIONS

Officers' Report:

President

- VAC Composition Update
 - Briefly updated on progress of revisions to the VAC composition. A draft will be ready to share with the commission in January 2023.



- Legislation supported by VAC
 - President Mansori mentioned two important bills passed within last two weeks to support veterans and military reservists. She first noted legislation to provide additional "gap financing" for a 105-unit affordable housing development located on Treasure Island that will be occupied by formerly homeless veterans. Secondly, she mentioned passage of the Military Leave Pay Protection Act, which will require private employers to pay military reservist called for duty the difference between their military salary and their salary as employees, for up to 30 days in a calendar year. She thanked commissioners for their support of both pieces of legislation. Further, she specifically acknowledged Commissioners Chan, Ellington, and Rusanoff for attending committee meetings in person to offer their support by public comment, and Commissioner Dacumos for sending a letter of support to the BOS committee.

Staff Secretary Report

- Update on Supply Needs of USO Center at San Francisco Int'l Airport
 - Commission secretary noted she will email the "wish list" provided by the USO Center along with instructions on how to donate directly to the center.

Committee Reports

- Legislative and Rules Committee – Report by Committee Chair Jason Chittavong:
 - Revision to Administrative Code – CVSO Roles and Duties [Discussion]
 - Commissioner Chittavong re-stated his request to revise the Administrative Code to include the VAC in a more active role in the selection and hiring process of a CVSO.
- Communication and Events Committee – Report by Committee Chair Nicholas Rusanoff:
 - In Commissioner Rusanoff's absence, commission secretary shared reminder about upcoming event: Wreaths Across America will have wreath laying ceremony at San Francisco Presidio National Cemetery at 11:00am on Saturday, December 17. Details of event available on Wreaths Across America website. Website link will be emailed to commissioners.



- Commissioner Ellington noted approximately 319 people are registered to attend and approximately 1500 wreaths have been sold. She added she will sing the National Anthem at the event.

Supervisor Liaison Reports

- District 1: Sup. Chan – Commissioner Bullard
 - No update.
- District 2: Sup. Stefani – Commissioner Wong
 - Absent – no report.
- District 3: Sup. Peskin – Commissioner McDonald
 - No update.
- District 4: Sup. Mar – Commissioner Barnickel
 - Supervisor Gordon Mar will be leaving position as supervisor. Commissioner Barnickel acknowledged good work Supervisor Mar did for the commission, saying he was instrumental in securing commission’s administrative secretary role, and helped in passage of parks legislation and BMR program. He will be deeply missed. Commissioner Barnickel added he looks forward to working with new District 4 Supervisor Joel Engardio.
- District 5: Sup. Preston – Commissioner Chittavong
 - Supervisor Preston was recently re-elected. Commissioner Chittavong noted he looks forward to continuing to work with him.
- District 6: Sup. Dorsey – Commissioner Rusanoff
 - Absent – no report.
- District 7: Sup. Melgar – Commissioner Chan
 - Updated on LBE bill. It has been read and is on assignment to committee. Hope is the City Administrator will do disparate impact report instead of a private company. Will keep commission updated.
- District 8: Sup. Mandelman – Commissioner Dacumos
 - Spoke with Supervisor Mandelman and confirmed his support for two resolutions.
- District 9: Sup. Ronen – Commissioner Miller
 - Reported on great first meeting with Supervisor Ronen. Supervisor is very interested in supporting the VAC.
- District 10: Sup. Walton – Commissioner Ellington
 - Reported on talks with Supervisor Walton about doing town halls in District 10 to bring veterans together.
- District 11: Sup. Safai – Commissioner Bullard
 - Supervisor Safai came out to drill competition on November 6 at Balboa High School. Commissioner Bullard further noted the supervisor was very instrumental in helping find someone to attend the June 2023 National Security Seminar at War College.



APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- Call for motion to approve November 8, 2022 regular meeting minutes.
- Motion - Barnickel/Second - Miller
- All in Favor – Aye: 12, No: 0, Abstain: 0.
- Motion passed. November 8, 2022 Meeting Minutes approved.

Absent: Olivieri, Rusanoff, Wong

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Update on Veterans Blvd. Signs in Need of Repair [Discussion]
 - Commissioner Chan updated that the sign has been cleaned. He offered specific thanks to Courtney Ellington and Senator Wiener for their assistance with Caltrans. Commission secretary will email picture of repaired sign to commissioners.

NEW BUSINESS

- Restart Muni Line 76X Marin Headland Express. Line discontinued during the pandemic and remains inactive. It provided access to veterans horsemanship events at the Presidio Riding Club. [Discussion]
 - Commissioner Rusanoff has details about this item. Due to Commissioner Rusanoff's absence, item was postponed to a future meeting discussion.

EXECUTIVE TEAM ELECTIONS FOR 2023 TERM

Commission President and Vice-President Nominations and Elections [Action/Vote]

- Nominations:
 - Courtney Ellington nominated for president. Commissioner Ellington accepted nomination.
 - Ikram Mansori nominated for president. Commissioner Mansori accepted nomination.
 - Nicholas Rusanoff nominated for president. Commissioner Rusanoff not present to accept nomination.
 - Jason Chittavong nominated for vice-president. Commissioner Chittavong accepted nomination.
 - Stephen Martin-Pinto nominated for vice-president. Commissioner Martin-Pinto declined nomination.
- Final Nominations:
 - Commission President: Ikram Mansori and Courtney Ellington.



- Commission Vice-President: Jason Chittavong.
 - Statements were given by each nominee.
- Meeting was opened to public comments on topic of executive team elections. Public comments included:
- Commissioner Chan commented on strong leadership skills of Courtney Ellington, he noted her work on recent parks legislation, BMR program, Military Leave Pay Protection Act, and her work with him and Supervisor Melgar on the LBE bill. He spoke in support of Courtney Ellington for commission president.
 - Jenny Perez commented in support of Ikram Mansori.
 - Caller John Dubpernell spoke in support of Jason Chittavong for commission vice-president.
 - Caller James, said he works with Courtney Ellington as a volunteer on veterans issues, he spoke in support of Courtney Ellington for president.
 - Prince Jordan spoke in support of Courtney Ellington for commission president.
 - Caller Andre said he is a veteran and knows Courtney Ellington through One Vet One Voice Outreach. He spoke in support of Courtney Ellington for president.
 - Caller Margaret Lee spoke in support of Courtney Ellington.
 - Caller Valerie spoke in support of Courtney Ellington.
 - Commissioner McDonald mentioned his recent hospitalization and said he was visited by Courtney Ellington and her husband, he noted that is indicative of how she takes care of veterans. He also thanked Commissioners Martin-Pinto and Mansori.
 - Commissioner Chittavong spoke in support of Ikram Mansori continuing as commission president.
 - Caller Anthony spoke in support of Courtney Ellington for commission president.
 - Vice-President Martin-Pinto noted his positive experience working with Ikram Mansori and spoke in support of her continuing as commission president for another term.
 - Anonymous caller in support of Courtney Ellington.
 - Caller Ed Ramirez with One Vet One Voice spoke in support of Courtney Ellington for commission president.
 - Commissioner Bullard expressed appreciation to both candidates for their hard work and willingness to step into a leadership role for the commission.
- Election of Commission President by Roll Call Vote:
- Mansori: Mansori
 - Martin-Pinto: Mansori
 - Baba: Mansori
 - Barnickel: Mansori
 - Bullard: Mansori



- Chan: Ellington
 - Chittavong: Mansori
 - Dacumos: Mansori
 - Ellington: Ellington
 - McDonald: Ellington
 - Miller: Mansori
 - Olivieri: absent
 - Rusanoff: absent
 - Sun: Mansori
 - Wong: absent
- Mansori: 9 votes / Ellington: 3 votes. Ikram Mansori re-elected to commission president for 2023 term.
 - Commission Vice-President. As Commissioner Chittavong was sole candidate, roll call vote not held. Jason Chittavong to serve as commission vice-president for 2023 term.

GOOD WELFARE

This is the opportunity for members of the Veterans Affairs Commission to share special thanks and congratulatory remarks for the good welfare taking place in the veterans community.

- Good Welfare Comments included:
 - Commissioner Bullard recognized Carol Lu for her work on the annual VFW Christmas banquets. And for her work on behalf of veterans in general.
 - Commissioner Chittavong acknowledged the hard work and dedication of Commissioner Bill Barnickel.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

- No public comments.

HONORS REPORT AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

In memory of American service members in all wars and conflicts who made the ultimate sacrifice. We also remember the passing of homeless veterans, veterans who died while awaiting approval of benefits, and suicides within the veteran and armed service communities.

ADJOURNMENT

President Mansori adjourned the meeting at 7:18pm.



The next regular meeting of the Veterans Affairs Commission will be held remotely at 6:00pm on Tuesday, January 10, 2023.

Links and meeting documents can be found on the Veterans Affairs Commission website.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Murphy
Commission Secretary
Veterans Affairs Commission

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Veterans Affairs Commission Meetings:

General meetings of the SFVAC are scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month, with the exception for the month of July, when there is no scheduled SF VAC meeting, and are held in Room 416 in City Hall.

Meeting confirmation, and specific announcement of general meetings are made via public posting of the Meeting Agenda as required by law, at least 72 hours prior to scheduled meetings. Agendas for SFVAC meetings (and archived meeting minutes) are available on the SFVAC Pages of the City of San Francisco website, and are also available for public view and inspection at the 5th Floor Government Information Center at the San Francisco Public Library, at 100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102. The documents librarian telephone number is (415) 554-4472.

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Veterans Crisis Line



If you or a Veteran, you know is in immediate danger to themselves or others, please call 911 or visit your local emergency room.

The Veterans Crisis Line is also available by texting 838255 or by going to their website and chatting with a mental health professional.



24/7 Confidential
Support

Text [MYLIFE](#) to [741741](#)
Crisis Line:
(415) 781-0500