



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 8, 2022 – 6:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME/President Mansori

President Mansori called the meeting to order at 6:10PM.

President Mansori welcomed commissioners and members of the public. She noted the meeting was being recorded through Microsoft TEAMS and the video will post to the VAC website.

ROLL CALL

The VAC Secretary called the roll:

PRESENT: President Ikram Mansori, Commissioners Joseph Baba, Douglas Bullard, William Barnickel, Hanley Chan, Jason Chittavong, Deborah Dacumos, Nicholas Rusanoff, Raymond Wong

ABSENT: Vice-President Martin-Pinto (excused), Commissioners Ellington (absent), Miller (excused), McDonald (absent), Olivieri (absent), Sun (excused)

Quorum present.

AGENDA CHANGES

President Mansori called for motion to approve agenda.

Motion – Rusanoff / Second – Dacumos

All in Favor – 9 / Opposed – 0 / Abstain – 0.

Motion passed. Agenda set.

Absent: VP Martin-Pinto, Commissioners Ellington, Miller, McDonald, Olivieri, Sun

COMMUNICATIONS

Officers' Report:

President

- Meeting Procedures Reviewed



- President Mansori mentioned Meeting Procedure Guidelines document emailed to all commissioners by the commission secretary. She asked commissioners to review the document as the guidelines will be followed at future VAC meetings.
 - Supervisor Liaison Reports Expectations
 - President Mansori followed up to request made during last month's meeting for clarity on topics to discuss with supervisors. She recommended commissioners review meeting agendas and minutes for discussion ideas. Further, she recommended commissioners contact her for guidance or suggestions.

Staff Secretary Report

- Confirm best method of communication with Commissioners
 - Commission secretary asked commissioners to confirm if VAC email is best method of communication. Lately some emails sent to VAC accounts have gone unanswered.

Committee Reports

- Legislative and Rules Committee – Report by Committee Chair Jason Chittavong:
 - Committee recommended update to VAC Bylaws, Article II Purpose, Powers and Duties: “Be a resource to veterans and their family members who are residents of San Francisco.” Commissioner Chittavong called for motion to approve VAC Bylaws update.
 - Motion – Chan / Second – Mansori
 - All in Favor – 9 / Opposed – 0 / Abstain – 0
 - Motion carried, recommendation passed.

Absent: VP Martin-Pinto, Commissioners Ellington, Miller, McDonald, Olivieri, Sun

- Discharge Upgrade Training – Committee recommends training be provided to VAC with recommendation funding be sought from City & County of San Francisco.
 - After discussion it was determined better course of action is for commissioners to connect veterans with resources. A commissioner commented VAC is not equipped to address discharge upgrades even with training. Commissioner Chittavong agreed with recommendation.
- Disabled Business Enterprise (DBE) – Committee recommended creating an AdHoc committee led by Commissioner Chan.



- Instead of Adhoc committee, President Mansori appointed Commissioner Chan to take lead on topic and report back to L&R committee and to VAC.
- Commissioner Chan agreed and noted a change – he is working with Supervisor Melgar’s office to add veteran owned business category in LBE (Local Business Enterprise) instead of DBE.
- Committee requests Commission approval to re-draft the Administrative Code – CVSO Roles and Duties. With approval of commission, committee will work on re-draft.
 - President Mansori asked for clarification – is request to replace DAS with VAC in CVSO selection process? Commissioner Chittavong confirmed that is correct. President Mansori noted VAC was involved in recent selection process of CVSO – VAC president and vice-president were included. She noted L&R committee doesn’t need additional permission to work on draft. Commissioner Chittavong will lead re-draft work and send to commission secretary to add to December meeting agenda.
- Communication and Events Committee – Report by Committee Chair Nicholas Rusanoff:
 - Operation Green Light – Noted October 26, 2022 letter sent to Representative Pelosi’s office received a positive reply.
 - Wreaths Across America – Reminded December 17 is wreath laying event. President Mansori asked that commission be notified about volunteer needs.
 - Policy Roundtable – Committee recommended remote event sometime in January. Commission secretary will email date options.

Supervisor Liaison Reports

- District 1: Sup. Chan – Commissioner Bullard
 - No update.
- District 2: Sup. Stefani – Commissioner Wong
 - No update.
- District 3: Sup. Peskin – Commissioner McDonald
 - Absent – no report.
- District 4: Sup. Mar – Commissioner Barnickel
 - Audio difficulties – could not share report.
- District 5: Sup. Preston – Commissioner Chittavong



- No update.
- District 6: Sup. Dorsey – Commissioner Rusanoff
 - No update.
- District 7: Sup. Melgar – Commissioner Chan
 - Shared update during committee reports.
- District 8: Sup. Mandelman – Commissioner Dacumos
 - Spoke with Supervisor Mandelman about veterans mental health issues, PTSD and high suicide rate of veterans. Commissioner requested research integration between the VA, UCSF and SF General to assist veterans and their families.
- District 9: Sup. Ronen – Commissioner Miller
 - Absent – Commissioner Miller emailed update: Supervisor Ronen very committed in supporting women veterans issues.
- District 10: Sup. Walton – Commissioner Ellington
 - Absent – no report.
- District 11: Sup. Safai – Commissioner Bullard
 - No update.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- Call for motion to approve October 11, 2022 regular meeting minutes.
- Motion - Rusanoff/Second - Dacumos
- All in Favor – Aye: 9, No: 0, Abstain: 0.
- Motion passed. October 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes approved.

Absent: VP Martin-Pinto, Commissioners Ellington, Miller, McDonald, Olivieri, Sun

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Update on Veterans Blvd. Signs in Need of Repair [Discussion]
 - Commissioner Chan connected with CalTrans and is awaiting reply.

NEW BUSINESS

- Support for the Military Leave Pay Protection Act [Action/Vote]
 - President Mansori called for motion for VAC support of the Military Leave Pay Protection Act.
 - Motion – Mansori / Second – Bullard
 - All in Favor – 9 / Opposed – 0 / Abstain – 0
 - Motion passed.

Absent: VP Martin-Pinto, Commissioners Ellington, Miller, McDonald, Olivieri, Sun

- Funding Needs of USO at San Francisco International Airport [Discussion]



- Commissioner Rusanoff contacted San Mateo Veterans Service Office. May have possible funding source, further information pending.
 - Commissioner Mansori met with head of USO in San Diego and discussed funding strategies.
 - Commissioner Chan will talk with SF Airport Commission to see if they can offer support to USO.
- Commission President and Vice-President Nominations [Discussion]
 - Nominations at November meeting, vote held during December meeting.
 - Commissioner Mansori called for nominations:
 - Bill Barnickel nominated:
 - President: Nicholas Rusanoff
 - Vice-President: Jason Chittavong
 - Hanley Chan nominated:
 - President: Courtney Ellington
 - Vice-President: Stephen Martin-Pinto
 - Nicholas Rusanoff nominated:
 - President: Ikram Mansori
 - Vice-President: Jason Chittavong

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:
 - Several commissioners acknowledged the dedicated work of fellow commissioners:
 - Commissioner Wong for his assistance in organizing the Veterans Day Parade.
 - Commissioner Dacumos for her work on several Fleet Week events.
 - Commissioner Bullard for organizing JROTC units marching on Fisherman's Wharf during Veterans Day parade.
 - Commissioner Rusanoff for serving as parade marshal.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Public Comments included:
 - Elena Kim, San Francisco CVSO shared information about two veterans events being held later this week at San Francisco City College.
 - Commissioner Bullard said Balboa High School Fall Drill Championships are Saturday, 11/12 starting at 10:00am.



- Commissioner Chan noted the Veterans Community Awards Gala event, Wednesday, 11/9 at War Memorial Building. Keynote Speaker is California Attorney General.

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 7:09pm.

The next regular meeting of the Veterans Affairs Commission will be held remotely at 6:00pm on Tuesday, December 13, 2022.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Murphy
Secretary to 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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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

Veterans Affairs Commission



City and County of San Francisco