



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023 – 6:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME / Vice-President Jason Chittavong

Meeting called to order at 6:06PM.

VP Jason Chittavong noted excused absence of President Mansori.

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

ROLL CALL

The VAC Secretary called the roll:

PRESENT: Vice-President Jason Chittavong, Commissioners Joseph Baba, Douglas Bullard, William Barnickel, Hanley Chan, Deborah Dacumos, Courtney Ellington, Stephen Martin-Pinto, Nicholas Rusanoff, Raymond Wong

ABSENT: President Mansori (excused), Commissioners McDonald (absent), Miller (excused), Olivieri (absent), Sun (excused)

Quorum present.

AGENDA CHANGES

VP Chittavong presented meeting agenda and motioned to set agenda.

No changes requested, agenda set.

PRESENTATION

- Mental Health Services of VA Medical Center – Presenter: John Dubpernell.
 - Mr. Dubpernell introduced himself as a Vietnam Veteran and discussed challenges of finding effective mental health support through the VA Medical Center. He requested commission advocate at federal level to bring improved mental health support to veterans. Discussion followed. VP Chittavong concluded discussion by requesting commissioners email recommendations for



next steps to commission secretary. He noted topic will be added to next month's meeting as discussion / possible action item.

COMMUNICATIONS

Officers' Report:

President (reported by VP Chittavong)

- Announcement of Resignation of Commissioner Raymond Wong
 - VP Chittavong announced Commissioner Wong submitted his resignation from the commission after 21 years of service.
- Annual Report 2022
 - Document expected to be finalized by end of February. Feedback welcomed from all commissioners.
- Amended Veterans Affairs Administrative Code [Discussion / Possible Action]
 - VP Chittavong noted a draft of the amended VAC Administrative Code was emailed to commissioners last week. He requested commissioners' feedback on document. Two commissioners responded by asking draft be emailed to them again. Commission secretary will re-send draft. No further discussion on item.

Staff Secretary Report

- Commission Terms Ending 1/31/23
 - Commission secretary noted several commission terms expire on 1/31/2023. Information about re-appointment process will be emailed to appropriate commissioners.

Committee Re-Assignments for 2023

- In President Mansori's absence, VP Chittavong delayed discussion of creating new committees to next month's meeting. He further requested commissioners interested in serving as committee chair email request to commission secretary.

Supervisor Liaison Reports

- District 1: Sup. Chan – Commissioner Bullard
 - No report.
- District 2: Sup. Stefani – Commissioner Wong
 - Commissioner Wong updated on issues being focused on by Supervisor Stefani, including creation of an anti-burglary program and witness protection for domestic violence victims.
- District 3: Sup. Peskin – Commissioner McDonald
 - Absent – no report.



- District 4: Sup. Engardio – Commissioner Barnickel
 - Noted he met new supervisor for District 4, Joel Engardio and looks forward to detailed discussions at future meetings. Re-capped important veterans legislation passed in 2022 and acknowledged hard work of Gordon Mar and Alan Wong on behalf of veteran community.
- District 5: Sup. Preston – Commissioner Chittavong
 - No specific report, but noted Supervisor Preston welcomes commission’s recommendation on ways to support veteran housing.
- District 6: Sup. Dorsey – Commissioner Rusanoff
 - Attended BOS Budget and Finance Committee meeting in support of additional “gap financing” for Maceo May Apartments, a 105-unit affordable housing development located on Treasure Island to be occupied by formerly homeless veterans. In January, attended Supervisor Dorsey inaugural event.
- District 7: Sup. Melgar – Commissioner Chan
 - Met with Supervisor Melgar about disparate impact study for the disabled veteran LBE preference. Study being considered by City Administrator.
- District 8: Sup. Mandelman – Commissioner Dacumos
 - Supervisor Mandelman focused on issue of mental health support for veterans. Federal support is one goal, but also focused on what can be done at local level.
- District 9: Sup. Ronen – Commissioner Miller
 - Absent – no report.
- District 10: Sup. Walton – Commissioner Ellington
 - No report.
- District 11: Sup. Safai – Commissioner Bullard
 - Supervisor remains very supportive of JROTC.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- Call for motion to approve December 13, 2022 regular meeting minutes.
- Motion - Barnickel/Second - Bullard
- All in Favor – Aye: 9, No: 0, Abstain: 1.
- Motion passed. December 13, 2022 Meeting Minutes approved.

Absent: Mansori, McDonald, Miller, Olivieri, Sun

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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 / Possible Action]



- Commissioner Rusanoff summarized benefits of transportation line to veterans. He requested Commission approve by vote a letter to the BOS and SFMTA to request restart of Muni Line 76X Marin Headland Express.
- Commissioner Bullard noted 76X line was also beneficial to JROTC.
- Public commenter noted 76X line was only bus route to Presidio Riding Club and strongly supported re-starting line.
- Commissioner Ellington supported effort and offered assistance to draft letter.
- Commissioner Chan offered to reach out to SFMTA Commission.
- VP Chittavong called for vote to support VAC letter to SFMTA re Muni Line 76X Headland Express:
 - All in Favor – Aye: 10, No: 0, Abstain: 0.
 - Motion passed. Commissioner Rusanoff will draft letter to SFMTA.

Absent: Mansori, McDonald, Miller, Olivieri, Sun

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 Barnickel commended work of Commissioner Rusanoff on his work for various veteran events including a surfing club.
 - Multiple commissioners thanked Commissioner Wong for his 21 years of service and commitment to the Veterans Affairs Commission.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

- Public Comments included:
 - Commenter requested Commission connect veterans to information about the PACT Act.



- CVSO Elena Kim responded to comment on PACT Act. She shared contact information for her office and noted CVSO is available to assist with questions on PACT Act legislation.
- Commissioners Barnickel and Chan noted recent election of Aaron Peskin to president of San Francisco Board of Supervisors.
- Commissioner Chan dedicated meeting to the memory of a Marine and San Francisco native, who died recently while awaiting a kidney transplant.

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

VP Chittavong adjourned the meeting at 7:11pm.

The next regular meeting of the Veterans Affairs Commission will be held remotely at 6:00pm on Tuesday, February 14, 2023.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Murphy
Commission Secretary
Veterans Affairs Commission

This document is Official Business of the Veterans Affairs Commission, City and County of San Francisco. It is part of the official Public Record of the City and County of San Francisco.

Public Access:

Public Records are covered under the State of California Brown Act, as well as the Sunshine Ordinance of the City and County of San Francisco. These acts ensure that deliberations of City



Business are conducted “before the People,” and that City and County operations are open to the People’s review.

For information on your rights under the Sunshine Ordinance (Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code), or to report a violation of the ordinance, please contact the Administrator of the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force.

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.

Disability Access:

City Hall of San Francisco is wheelchair accessible via all entrances. There is wheelchair accessible public parking nearby, including the underground garage at the north side of City Hall. The nearby BART/MUNI station (Civic Center) is wheelchair accessible as are nearby city bus lines and stops. For more public transit information services, call (415) 923-6142 or dial 311.



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.

Veterans Affairs Commission



City and County of San Francisco



24/7 Confidential
Support

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