

VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
April 11, 2019
Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m.
AMC Eagle Conference Room

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Veterans' Affairs Commission was called to order by Chair Francis. (no time announced on recording)

II. **PRAYER**

III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

IV. **ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS:**

- **Present:** Chair Francis, Vice Chair Sears, Commissioners Aleem, Bruno, Burrell, Camara, Donaldson, Dyer, Echols, and Mulder.
- **Staff:** Claudine McDonald, Manager, Community Relations, Dr. Shannon-Banister, Project Manager, Neighborhood Services.

V. **GUESTS:** Gary Anguilm, Emma Armstrong, Gary Welch, Joe Zmugg.

VI. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Moved to approve the minutes by Commissioner Camara and seconded by Commissioner Dyer. February minutes approved and signed by Chair Francis. No March minutes available. March meeting cancelled due to weather.

VII. **STAFF REPORT-Dr. Shannon-Banister-No Report.**

VIII. **CHAIR REPORT-Chair Francis-Introduced Claudine McDonald as new Manager of Community Relations.** On February 24, 2019 a bowling fundraiser for Stand Down was held. Five Commissioner's participated. The event earned \$1102.25. Chair Francis attended the Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) meeting. Meetings are held the first Friday of the month at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, 9:00 a.m. Chair Francis shared information on two grants. The Veterans' Trust Grant and Veterans' Assistance Grant.

IX. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

City Council Liaison-Commissioner Echols-Council Member Dave Gruber suggested Commissioner's network with other organizations dedicated to veterans. Citywide events are a great way for Commissioners to network with City Council Members.

Economic Development-Commissioner Camara-The Homeless Veteran Application Program will focus on creating housing for an extended period of time. While in the program the veteran will learn a specific skill set to support themselves. Commissioner Camara will attend the NAACP event next month.

Public Outreach-Commissioner Mulder-Attended Leadership Aurora for the military at Buckley A.F. Base. Commissioner Mulder came away with the knowledge that the City of Aurora meets the expectations of reserve and active duty military, Colorado Army National Guard, and the Air National Guard.

Special Events-Chair Francis-The next Stand Down meeting is scheduled April 18th. The donation letter format is in process. The grant application for \$7000.00 is being prepared. A list of providers is available. Volunteer organizations scheduled at this time are the Jr. ROTC and Young Marines. Emma Armstrong mentioned that Veterans Health Administration (VHA) will host the Denver Stand Down. Commissioner Camara proposed reaching out to VHA to collaborate with them in this year's Stand Down. Chair Francis emphasized that this information needs to be discussed at the Stand Down Committee meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Sharon A. Lane Street Naming** –Commissioner Mulder-Remove from Agenda.
- **Research on Existing Organizations** –Vice Chair Sears- Website not active at this time. Vice Chair Sears will contact Michael Bryant from the Communications Department.



- **Stand Down-Chair Francis**-Updates in the Special Events Report.
- **National Debt Presentation** –Commissioner Echols-Gary Welch will build a display case for the Aurora Municipal Center. The AMC will be the primary location for the National Debt. Commissioner Camara will order a second case to carry. This case will move the display to VAC Events. The display will need to be signed out for scheduled VAC events.
- **American/POW Flags Dispositions**-Commissioner Bruno-Disposition of flags is completed. Troop #1327 sent a Thank you note.
- **Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA)-May 10th-19th, Gaylord Rockies Resort and Convention Center**-Chair Francis-Gift bags will be provided by Jennifer Buckley, Destination Services, to PVA on behalf of the VAC. Per request a letter and picture of the Mayor have been provided.
- **April 2019 MVEE Job Fair**-Commissioner Dyer-The job fair was successful. The Heritage Christian Event Center was a great venue. The center includes 190 parking spaces. About 110 jobseekers were in attendance. There were positive reviews of the event by vendors and attendees. The City of Aurora Channel 8 and ESGR provided advertising.
- **Bylaws**-Chair Francis-Completed.
- **Sympathy Card Design**-Vice Chair Sears-Sympathy card design is simple. The order is in with the Graphics Department. Commissioner Camara will be in charge of sending out sympathy cards.

X. **MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS:** None.

XI. **NEW BUSINESS:** Moved to approve a subcommittee, "Veterans' Doing Business with the City of Aurora". Moved by Commissioner Camara and seconded by Commissioner Aleem. Motion approved by Chair Francis.

Commissioner Donaldson will be the Chair of the Budget Subcommittee.

Add Dan Riley, Congressman Wolf's aid, Veterans' Affairs to the May agenda.

XII. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Vice Chair Sears announced his resignation from the commission. Emma Armstrong has flyers for the Homeless Veterans Resource Summit. Gary Anguilm Post #3631 announced an Easter egg hunt on April 20, 2019, 1-3 p.m.

XIII. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair Francis: The Veterans' Affairs Commission adjourned at 7:53 p. m.

Minutes Transcribed by: Traci Burton on April 19, 2019

Approved: 
Chair Francis

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, May 9, 2019 at 6 p.m. – 8 p.m., 4th Floor Eagle Room, Phone 303-326-8909

DATES TO REMEMBER

Race Forum Meeting	Thursday May 9, 2019 @ 6:00 PM	Sand Creek Room, 4 nd Floor
Aurora Community of Faith (ACOF)	Thursday May 16, 2019 @ 11:30 AM	Aurora Room, 1 st Floor
Aurora Key Community Response Team (AKCRT)	Tuesday June 4, 2019 @ 8:00AM	Aurora Room, 1 st Floor
Humans Relations Commission (HRC)	Wednesday June 5, 2019 @ 6:00 PM	Aspen Room, 2 nd Floor