

VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
June 13, 2019
Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m.
AMC Eagle Conference Room

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Veterans' Affairs Commission was called to order at 6:01 by Chair Francis
- II. **PRAYER**
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- IV. **ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS:**
- **Present:** Chair Francis, Vice Chair Aleem, Commissioners Burrell, Camara, Chase, Jr., Donaldson, Dyer, Echols, and Mulder.
 - **Absent:** Commissioners Bruno and Charlip.
 - **Staff:** Traci Burton and Aruny Phanekham.
- V. **GUEST:** Brian Johnson.
- VI. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Moved to approve the minutes by Commissioner Donaldson and seconded by Vice Chair Aleem. May minutes approved and signed by Chair Francis.
- VII. **STAFF REPORT-**Aruny Phanekham presented the staff report on behalf of Claudine McDonald. A volunteer agreement form needs to be signed and returned. There will no longer be recording of the meetings. The meetings will follow Robert Rules for taking minutes. The plan is to have Share Point ready in July. The Aurora Youth Expo is June 22nd, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Aurora Municipal Center. A city tour is being planned. Dates available August 3rd, 17th, and 24th.
- VIII. **CHAIR REPORT-**Chair Francis-Presented at the Boards and Commissions meeting in May. She attended the PVA National Convention and BBQ. Vice Chair Aleem read the proclamation and she laid the wreath at the Colorado Freedom Memorial Day Event. She attended the Armed Forces Luncheon and the Veterans Treatment Court. Commissioner Chase helped schedule a ride along with the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Department. She met with Council Member Watson to discuss Doing Business with the City of Aurora project. Representative Jason Crowe provided names of three veterans who need assistance. Chair Francis was able to assist them. Meetings are scheduled with Council Members Gruber and Lawson.
- IX. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
- City Council Liaison-Commissioner Echols-**He attended the Colorado Freedom Memorial Day event. Attending city events is a great way to connect with 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. A location at CCA Lowry Campus is being researched. Chair Francis will connect Commissioner Camara to a nonprofit organization that may help start this program.
- Public Outreach-Commissioner Mulder-**Attended the Colorado Freedom Memorial Day event. The turnout was wonderful. He graduated from Leadership Aurora. The VAC should consider sponsoring another Commissioner for Leadership Aurora. The Aurora Chamber of Commerce is a great place to network.
- Special Events-Commissioner Chase-**The Stand Down flyer and donation letter are complete. There are many organizations interested. The Stand Down grant is under review with Claudine McDonald and Director Malcolm Hankins. Vice Chair Aleem will contact Channel 8. Will research use of message boards from Public Works.
- Doing Business with the City of Aurora-Vice Chair Aleem-**This project will be on hold due to Stand Down preparations.



UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Stand Down-Commissioner Chase**-Updates in the Special Events Report.
- **National Debt Presentation** –Gary Welch is waiting for the glass to finish the project. Chair Francis will reach out to him. Claudine McDonald will research placement in the Aurora Municipal Center.
- **Budget-Commissioner Donaldson**-Prepared a budget for this year. Chair Francis will meet with Claudine McDonald to discuss the VAC budget.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS: Brian Johnson explained how the Veterans Treatment Court operates. Vice Chair Aleem scheduled meetings with Council Members Bergan and Richardson.

X. **NEW BUSINESS:** It was proposed the VAC purchase a storage unit. Another suggestion is to form a fundraising committee for the special events budget. Commissioner Chase proposed the idea of purchasing flags for Fallen Vets at Ft Logan. A recommendation was made to have a VAC representative attend Ft. Logan events. Commissioner Camara suggested the return of movie night for the MLK 2020 event.

XI. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Commissioner Donaldson shared her trip to Normandy, France for the 75th Anniversary of D-Day.

XII. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair Francis: The Veterans' Affairs Commission adjourned at 7:40 p. m.

Minutes Transcribed by: Traci Burton on June 28, 2019

Approved: *Cynthia L. Francis*
Chair Francis

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, July 11, 2019 at 6 p.m. – 8 p.m., 4th Floor Eagle Room, Phone 303-326-8909

DATES TO REMEMBER

Aurora Community of Faith (ACOF)

Race Forum Meeting

Aurora Key Community Response Team (AKCRT)

Humans Relations Commission (HRC)

Thursday July 18, 2019 @ 11:30 AM

Thursday July 18, 2019 @ 6:00 PM

Tuesday August 6, 2019 @ 8:00AM

Wednesday August 7, 2019 @ 6:00 PM

Sand Creek Room, 4th Floor

Sand Creek Room, 4th Floor

Aurora Room, 1st Floor

Aspen Room, 2nd Floor