



### Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting Minutes August 8, 2019

**Meeting called to order at 6:01p.m. by Chair Francis**

**Location:** Aurora Municipal Center, 15151 E. Alameda Parkway, Eagle Room

**Roll Call:**

**Present:** Commissioners Aleem, Burrell, Charlip, Chase, Jr., Francis, Mulder, Dyer

**Absent:** Commissioners Bruno, Camara, Donaldson, Echols

**City Liaison:** Claudine McDonald, Community Relations Manager

**City of Aurora Staff:** Lydia Taft – Administrative Supervisor, Joshua Nicholas – Administrative Specialist

**Guests:** Douglas Edwards, Roger Martin, Simon Million, Ida Tholen, Terrell Horton, Kat Traylor

**Minutes:** Commissioner Charlip requested an amendment to the July 2019 minutes to reflect that fundraising and the development of a strategic plan are not related. Motion to approve minutes with the exception of requested changes moved by Commissioner Chase, Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Charlip. Minutes accepted with pending amendment listed above.

**Public Invited to Speak:** Guests introduced themselves including representatives from Rep. Jason Crow’s office.

Agenda Item	Minutes	Action Items & Responsible Person
Chair Report: Chair Francis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Met with State Senator Fields regarding the work of the VAC. Senator Fields expressed her interest in being involved – especially with veteran homelessness and requested to be updated on VAC developments.</li> <li>Visited Post 206 and attended an awards and recognition banquet.</li> <li>Attended Census 2020 meeting – VAC will be involved in helping Census 2020 reach undercounted populations (veterans). Chair Francis will be attending a Census training on Aug. 14, 2019.</li> </ul>	
Vice Chair Report: Vice Chair Aleem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visited Comitis Crisis Center to discuss housing options for veterans and will meet on Aug. 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss donations for Stand Down.</li> </ul>	
Staff Report: Claudine McDonald	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provided Commissioners with instructions on how to check the VAC voicemail line. Also requested a voicemail checking procedure from the commission to ensure the mailbox is checked on a regular basis and phone calls/messages are returned in a timely manner.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commissioners: provide Claudine with a voicemail checking procedure.</li> <li>- Joshua to email Ward meeting sign-up sheet to Commissioners with Sept. agenda.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided Commissioners with a sign-up sheet for Ward meetings thru the end of the year. Asked Commissioners to review and sign up for meetings they are able to attend.</li> <li>• Race Forum has changed its name to ReACT (Responding to Aurora’s Critical Topics).</li> <li>• Presented various community events/announcements – copies of which will be sent to Commissioners via email.</li> <li>• City tour: Commissioners from VAC and HRC have been invited to attend an all-day city of Aurora tour. Commissioners to receive additional details and RSVP options via email.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Joshua to email event/announcements packet to Commissioners.</li> <li>- Joshua to email additional info and RSVP options to Commissioners.</li> </ul>
<p>Committee Report:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>City Council Liaison:</b> no report</li> <li>• <b>Economic Development:</b> no report</li> <li>• <b>Public Outreach:</b> Commissioner Mulder resigned from committee. Commissioners asked what the position entailed and discussion about the use of social media occurred. Tabled for further discussion.</li> <li>• <b>Special Events:</b> covered below.</li> <li>• <b>Budget:</b> no report.</li> </ul>	
<p>Unfinished Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Strategic Plan:</b> Commissioner Charlip presented a VAC strategic plan draft. Would like first comments by August 19<sup>th</sup>. Will add objective to Census 2020. Wants to create a master calendar for VAC to include all community events, ward meetings, etc.</li> <li>• <b>Stand Down:</b> Commissioner Chase, Jr. continues to recruit community partners and groups for the event slated for Oct. 24, 2019. Heritage Christian Center wants to meet on Thursday’s for Stand Down planning meetings. Next planning meeting is August 15, 2019. VC Aleem compiled a press release for the Stand Down and will forward to Claudine for review.</li> <li>• <b>National Debt Presentation:</b> Mockup needs a permanent home within the AMC as well as a plaque with a quote from President Obama. The acrylic display box also needs attention around corners.</li> <li>• <b>Storage unit:</b> no discussion</li> <li>• <b>Fundraising committee:</b> no updates – Commissioners questioned whether the topic should be removed from unfinished business.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commissioners will need to provide feedback to Commissioner Charlip regarding the strategic plan.</li> <li>- Chair Francis to provide Claudine with copy of press release for edits and submission to PIO Michael Bryant.</li> <li>- Claudine to work on finding a display location for presentation. Joshua will work on plaque and display case.</li> </ul>
<p>New Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner Mulder requested that the VAC page on the city of Aurora website be updated to reflect new meeting location (Eagle Room).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Joshua to work with Deana in NS to update website with correct content.</li> </ul>



New Business <u>(cont.)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commissioner Charlip suggested that each Commissioner compile a one-page bio for the website.</li><li>• Commissioner Charlip began discussion about conducting a study of veterans along with a needs assessment to help drive activities of the commission. Commissioner Charlip suggested utilizing graduate students to help with the study/needs assessment.</li></ul>	- Commissioner Charlip offered to be a preceptor over graduate students.
Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kat Traylor offered to bring monthly legislative updates to the commission/</li></ul>	

**Meeting Adjourned:** 7:10 p.m.

**Next meeting:** The next VAC meeting will be held on October 10, 2019 in the Eagle Room at 6 p.m.

**Minutes transcribed by:** Joshua Nicholas on 8/26/2019 at 2:25 p.m.

APPROVED:

Chair Francis