



**Veterans' Affairs Commission Meeting Minutes  
October 8, 2020**

**Meeting called to order:** 6:03 p.m. by Chair Aleem

**Location:** online via WebEx

**Roll Call:**

- **Present:** Commissioners Aleem, Charlip, Chase, Francis, Donaldson, Echols, Sayouthasad, Fox, Lammon
- **Absent:** Commissioners Dallas, Savage

**Quorum:** Yes

**City staff:** Claudine McDonald, Manager, Community Relations Division and Joshua Nicholas, Sr. Community Engagement Specialist

**Minutes:** Commissioner Charlip moved to approve the September 10, 2020 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Chase; minutes approved without objection.

**Public Invited to Speak:** n/a

**Guest speaker(s):** n/a

Agenda Item	Minutes	Action
<b>Chair Report:</b> Chair Aleem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• encouraged commissioners to attend the October Virtual Defense Council meeting hosted by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.</li> </ul>	- Chair Aleem to report out updates from Council meeting.
<b>Staff Report:</b> Claudine McDonald	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provided Community Relations Division updates related to food access programs and youth outreach initiatives available to all community members, including veterans.</li> </ul>	
<b>Unfinished Business:</b>	<p><b>Stand Down</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Comm. Chase will resume Stand Down planning meetings beginning 10/15 and they will occur bi-weekly.</li> <li>○ Comm. Chase &amp; Charlip will meet to discuss Comm. Charlip's recent Stand Down proposal which focuses on a mobile version of the original concept.</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategic Plan By-Laws</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ discussion about the strategic plan was postponed allowing more time to discuss working instructions and by-laws.</li> <li>○ Comm. Charlip provided an overview and received feedback on updated by-laws; he also provided clarity regarding proposed voting privileges for Chair and Vice Chair.</li> <li>○ Based on questions regarding updated by-laws, Claudine will check with the city clerk regarding commission reimbursements for items related to conferences, trainings, etc. such as travel and food.</li> </ul> <p><b>Working Instructions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Comm. Charlip answered various questions related to new working instructions, and based off feedback, will provide an updated copy to CRD to be shared with the City Clerk for review.</li> </ul> <p><b>Response to Mayor Coffman re: support for veterans experiencing homelessness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ discussion postponed until November.</li> <li>○ commission agreed to send an update to Mayor Coffman to advise that the commission is identifying ways to proceed.</li> </ul>	<p>- Comm. Chase to provide Claudine an updated proposal based on outcome of meeting with Comm. Charlip.</p> <p>- Comm. Charlip will send updated by-laws to CRD for distribution to the commission.</p> <p>- Claudine will provide update at 11/12 meeting.</p> <p>- Joshua will submit updated Working Instructions to the City Clerk for review.</p> <p>- Chair Aleem will submit an update to Mayor Coffman re: support for veterans experiencing homelessness.</p>



Agenda Item	Minutes	Action
	<p><b>Feedback from Councilmember Gruber</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ provided updates regarding various initiatives and outreach work in which the councilmember is involved:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Veteran Support Office for Adams and Arapahoe Counties supported in part by city of Aurora</li><li>▪ Veteran Municipal Court is coming soon to city of Aurora.</li></ul></li><li>○ advised the commission that outreach opportunities between the VAC and Mayor’s Office are currently not a priority and encouraged the commission to instead foster relationships with veteran support organizations to support all Aurora veterans. Ideas for partnership included:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Armed Service Member Recognition Day</li><li>▪ Social media campaign encouraging veterans in the community to wear a certain color shirt, hat, etc. to draw attention to their veteran status to celebrate Veteran’s Day.</li></ul></li></ul>	

Meeting Adjourned: 7:26 p.m.

Next meeting: November 12, 2020 via WebEx

Minutes transcribed by Joshua Nicholas on Nov. 9, 2020 at 2:30 p.m.

Approved: electronically via WebEx by Watik Aleem

Date: 11.12.2020