



**Veterans’ Affairs Commission Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2021**

Meeting called to order: 6:02 p.m. by Chair Charlip

Location: online via WebEx

Roll Call: (see Attachment 1)

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

Quorum: Yes

City staff: Claudine McDonald, Manager, Community Relations Division and Aruny Phanekham Office Administration, Community Relations Division

Minutes: Commissioner Chase moved to approve the December 10, 2021 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Fox; minutes approved without objection.

Public Invited to Speak: 1 person, Chris Tillman

Agenda Item	Minutes	Action
Financial Report: Claudine McDonald	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A financial update from 2020 was given. • \$3,649 is the yearly amount allocated from general funds 	
Public Invited to Speak:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Tillman, spoke and is interested in becoming involved with Aurora’s Veteran community 	
City Staff Report: Claudine McDonald	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates for the city of Aurora’s Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration events. • Attendance chart is presented to keep record of absent, excused, and present commissioners at each meeting. Commissioners must notify Chair or City Staff in order to receive an excused absence. (Atch 1) • Community Relations Division update of transition to Aurora Police Department. Will no longer will serve as the city liaison for the Veterans’ Affairs Commission. • Further discussion about transition and impact on VAC. 	
Sub-Committee Report: n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • subcommittees have not been developed. 	

Vice Chair Report: Jeremy Lammon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> reviewed 2021 roster and asked commissioners to verify accuracy. administrative duties stated in the Working Instructions are assigned for 2021. beginning at the March 2021 meeting, segments within the Working Instructions will be chosen by the Vice Chair for review and discussion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioners should send any roster updates to Vice-Chair Lammon Vice-Chair Lammon will coordinate Working Instruction agenda with Chair Charlip and city liaison
Chair Report: Chair Charlip	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of Mayor Coffman’s proposal to partner with Bayaud and Adams County to assist unhoused community members, specifically eight veterans. An update about the US Department of Labor Homeless Veteran Reintegration Grants are due about March 1st. VAC is not positioned to apply for the grant to receive the funds. Chair Charlip update on his meetings with council members, city leaders, and the mayor to further discuss what they expect to see from the VAC. Chair Charlip discussed possible meetings with the Adam’s County Veterans Chair in 2021. The February meeting will have the Chair from the City; Human Relations Commission and Bill Holen an elected Commissioner in Arapahoe County Chair Charlip reminded the commissioners that meetings are scheduled for 90 minutes and all commissioners are expected to participate for the entire meeting. 	
Old Business: Chair Charlip	Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vice Chair will make sure policies will be implemented moving forward. By-Laws <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No discussion. Commissioner Chase makes a motion to accept the current By-Laws. Commissioner Sayouthasad seconds the motion. Motion passes. On hold until new liaisons are identified Backpack distribution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is on hold since there is no Stand Down scheduled. Commissioner Aleem has a meeting with Heritage Christian 	Needs to be submitted to City Council for approval.

	<p>Center. They're considering scheduling a Stand Down.</p> <p>Minutes taking and format</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tabled until new liaisons are identified <p>Veteran Population Study – how to get to Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pros and cons from councilmembers were shared with VAC. On hold until new liaisons are identified. 	<p>Needs to be submitted to City Council for their consideration</p>
<p>New Business: Chair Charlip</p>	<p>Listening session results and 2021 Project Selection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair Charlip shared list of top listening session activities • A multi-vote process to narrow down the projects the VAC wanted to focus on and could reasonably staff, this year was conducted. • A final decision of priorities will be made at the February meeting. <p>Use of Spirit of Aurora funds (\$1,629.92)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City staff update on funds in Spirit of Aurora account and proposal from SOA to contribute funds to the Korean War Memorial. This project is led by the PRO's Department (Parks, Recreation, and Open Space). • Suggestion was made to distribute funds to other projects that are veteran focused like the State Veterans Home or the Veterans Treatment Court. • Commission agreed to split the funds equally among the three nonprofits. <p>Commission Vacancies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion about possible action to be taken for Commissioners who are below 80% attendance. <p>On hold until new liaisons are identified. Meeting Agenda Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair asks Commissioners to submit ideas for meeting topics by the Thursday before the meeting. <p>March 2020 Minutes (two sets)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City staff clarified that the minutes on the city website should be considered as the final version. • 2021 Milestones <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March meeting will consist of a 2020 review of accomplishments, hurdles, etc. • June will be a check-in with the commission for items needed, adjustments, and improvements. • December will conclude with elections. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aruny to share list of items with Claudine pertaining to the Veterans Treatment Court. Claudine will share with new city liaison. • . • Commission to identify what funds the VAC will need, outside of the general funds provided, to accomplish goals.



Meeting Adjourned: 7:35 p.m.

Next meeting: Feb 11, 2021 via WebEx

Minutes transcribed by Aruny Phanekham on Jan. 5, 2021 at 2:30

p.m.

Approved: _____

Date: _____

Attachment 1



Attendance.xlsx
