



VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETING

June 10, 2021 at 6 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order: 6:01 p.m. by Chairperson Charlip
Location: Virtual via WebEx
City Liaison(s): Jamie LaDuke - Aurora Learn Supervisor
 Alicia Romero – Military Liaison

A. Standing Business (Agenda at Atch 1)

1. Call to Order/Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance Charlip
 Chairperson Ralph Charlip called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m., offered the invocation and led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call (Attendance at Atch 2) Staff
 - a. Present Commissioners: Ralph Charlip, Watik Aleem, Gregory Echols, CW Fox, Cynthia Francis, Jeremy Lammon, Melissa Sayouthasad, Nathaniel Graff, Michael Spatter and Robert Chase
 - b. Absent Commissioner(s): None
 - c. Quorum: Yes

3. Approval of May 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes (Meeting Minutes at Atch 3) Charlip
 Motion to approve the May 13, 2021 meeting minutes at 6:05 p.m. by Robert Chase, second by CW Fox.
 Approved unanimously.
 Amendments: None

4. Guest Speaker(s)
 Sandy Thomas, Co-Chairperson for the Aurora Commission for Seniors
 Sandy stated that one of the goals of their commission is to collaborate and engage with other boards and commissions, this includes cross-generational collaborations such as with the Aurora Youth Commission and the Veterans Affairs Commission. Sandy was appreciative of the invitation to join this evenings meeting. Sandy stated their commission was recently approved for a name change by City Council. The new name is Aurora Commission for Older Adults. Sandy provided an overview of the commission’s objectives. Sandy stated that they have commission members that live in each Ward, expect for Ward II at this time. The commission members attend their Ward meetings regularly, to ensure that seniors are included in vital conversations related to policies and ordinances. The commission recently started working with Luke Palmisano, with the City of Aurora’s Office of Intergovernmental Relations. Luke has assisted the commission with organizing lobbying efforts for or against new state legislation related to older adults. Sandy stated that the commission recently presented to City Council and asked that Council review city documents, marketing, etc. and remove words such as “elderly” or “senior” and replace with “older adults.” In



addition, Sandy stated that once City Council begins meeting in-person, the commission intends to have a table in the AMC lobby, to provide resource materials to the public. (INFO)

- 5. Public Comment(s) – Maximum Three (3) Minutes per Person Charlip
Roger Martin, Vice Chair of American Legion Post 1992 attended as an observer.

- 6. City Liaison Report: Staff
 - a. Quarterly Financial Report (January, April, July and October) (OPEN: Staff)
 - b. Phone Line Recording
Jamie LaDuke stated that the voice mail recording for the VAC phone line has been updated with the approved message. (CLOSED)
 - c. Veteran Population Study
Jamie LaDuke stated that there are no updates on the population study. (OPEN: Staff)
 - d. Ordinance Change (Guard/Reserve/AD/NOAA/PHS)
Jamie LaDuke stated that Ordinance 2-851 was approved by City Council on May 24, 2021. In addition, City Council appointed new members Michael Spatter and Nathaniel Graff and reappointed Cynthia Francis. (CLOSED)

- 7. Vice Chairperson Report (VAC Commission Roster at Atch 4) Lammon
No changes or comments. (OPEN: Lammon)

- 8. Chairperson Report Charlip
 - a. VAC Annual Report to the Policy Committee – 30 June
The policy committee meeting was moved from 23 June to 30 June. As soon as Jamie LaDuke receives the meeting invite, she will forward it on to Chairperson Charlip. (OPEN: Staff)
 - b. Jessica Prosser and Lana Dalton with Housing and Community Services will be attending the August commission meeting. They will be discussing the city’s housing initiatives and challenges. (INFO)
 - c. September guest speaker will be the Executive Director of the Aurora Housing Authority. Will be discussing the new veteran housing complex coming soon to Aurora. (INFO)
 - d. There was a request by commission members to include each commissioner’s Ward, on the VAC Commission Roster. (OPEN: Lammon)

- 9. Project Reports
 - a. Coffman project Charlip
The project has become very busy in the last few weeks. Chairperson Charlip will be presenting at the June 21 Study Session. The program allows for eight veterans at any one time, participating for a minimum of 10-weeks. They will be working 24 hours a week with the city’s Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department. Bayaud will be managing the logistics of the program, including outcomes and successes. The draft of the contract is currently with Adams County, with the goal of starting the program on July 1. Mayor Coffman is working with a few local Foundations to subsidize some of the funding. Each veteran will receive a case manager and access to additional resources. (OPEN: Charlip)
 - b. Outreach, Social Media, Web Site Sayouthasad



Melissa stated that there are a few challenges with listing discounts and events on the Veterans Affairs Commission webpage due to concerns about reliability of the organizations’ s offering the events and discounts as well as a perceived endorsement of those organizations by the City. Links to other sites will most likely be used to avoid the concerns and because the are easier to manage. Melissa will send an email to Jamie with the links to resources. (OPEN: Sayouthasad)

- c. VSO Engagement Aleem
Watik stated that he will be attending the UVC banquet on June 27, he will talk with individuals about the commission and bring a few of the pamphlets to distribute. Watik will follow up with the commission after the event. UVC stands for United Veterans Coalition, it is a collection of various organizations that support veterans. They also have a part-time lobbyist that assists with organizing efforts in support of veteran efforts. (OPEN: Aleem)
- d. Water Bill Insert Lammon
It will appear in the June newsletter with the water bill, a few commissioners have already seen it. (CLOSED)
- e. Promote Military Service (Students) Fox
CW Fox will provide Jamie with the documents to share with the commission. CW will contact schools in the next week to establish a timeline for attending the schools and presenting. (VAC School Contact Info at Atch 10) and (Military Alternative Presentation at Atch 11) (OPEN: Fox)
- f. JROTC Collaboration Chase
No updates (OPEN: Chase)

10. Liaison Updates:

- a. Aurora Defense Council Echols
No updates (OPEN: Echols)
- b. Colorado Freedom Memorial Echols
Gregory Echols attended the Colorado Remembers event that was a collaboration with the Colorado Freedom Memorial and City of Aurora. He will continue to establish a relationship and solidify an opportunity for the commission to participate in the yearly event. (OPEN: Echols)
- c. Veterans Court Aleem
Two veterans are in the program and the Court is still promoting the program and reviewing qualifications for enrollees. (OPEN: Aleem)
- d. UVC Aleem
Discussed earlier. (OPEN: Aleem)
- e. JCF Chase
Robert Chase attended the last meeting. No new updates. (OPEN: Chase)

B. Old Business

- 1. Policy Review Lammon
Jeremy received feedback from one member on one of the policies. No other feedback was received. Going forward, if individuals do not provide updates or comments, the policy will be adopted at the next meeting. The policies that were sent this week are approved. Jeremy will update



the table of contents and send to Jamie for distribution. (OPEN: Lammon)

(2020-21 Meetings and Attendance at Atch 5)

(2020-22 Officers and Election of Officers at Atch 6)

(Draft WI Master Candidate Interview Atch 7)

(Draft WI Commission Roles and Responsibilities Atch 8)

(Draft WI Aligning VAC Projects at Atch 9)

2. Veteran Oral History Project Charlip
 Chairperson Charlip has spoken with staff at the Aurora History Museum, about the commission managing this potential project. Chairperson Charlip will request that the contact at the museum attend a future VAC meeting to discuss in more detail. (OPEN: Charlip)
3. Veteran Recognition Program Charlip
 Chairperson Charlip met with Jamie LaDuke and staff member Chad Angell, Volunteer Program Coordinator. There is an opportunity to partner with the Aurora Volunteer Center to offer one or more veterans awards going forward. Chad is open to working with the commission to change the title of the awards as well as the descriptions and criteria. In addition, Chad would like assistance in evaluating the nominations. This could work in conjunction with the Aurora Defense Council recognition lunch each May. There was a recommendation to form a sub-committee, Mike Spatter and Nate Graff have agreed to review this project and follow up with the commission in a month (Atch 12). (OPEN: Graff and Spatter)
4. Defense Council August Awards Luncheon Echols
 There are six individuals schedule to attend at Commission expense. Greg will forward the list of those attending to Jamie. (INFO)
5. Veterans Day and Memorial Day Celebration Charlip
 Ralph reviewed a series of events that could be used to recognize veterans (Atch 12). Greg Echols offered to take on the Memorial Day Proclamation and event organization. (OPEN: Charlip/Echols)
6. Rotary Service Project Partnership Lammon
 Jeremy's wife, Danielle Lammon will be the chair of the Aurora Rotary Club. They are looking to do a service project and there is an opportunity for the commission to collaborate with the Aurora Rotary Club on a project or fundraising efforts. (OPEN: Lammon)

C. New Business

1. Certificate to recognize a veteran's passing Aleem
 In July of 2012, the VAC started an effort to acknowledge a veteran that has recently passed with a certificate of recognition. Area of concern would include how the commission is notified of a passing and how the program will be organized and managed. Watik stated that he would research a little more to see if there are additional details regarding this program. (OPEN: Aleem)

Adjournment

Meeting Review Charlip

Next Meeting: July 8

Future 12 Meetings:

- 2021: 12 August, 9 September, 14 October, 11 November, 9 December
- 2022: 13 January, 10 February, 10 March, 14 April, 12 May, 9 June, 14 July



Meeting Minutes transcribed by:
Jamie LaDuke

Approved: _____

Date: _____

Attachments:

1. Agenda
2. Attendance
3. May 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes
4. VAC Commission Roster
5. Meetings and Attendance
6. Officers and Election of Officers
7. Master Candidate Interview Questions
8. Commission Roles and Responsibilities
9. Aligning VAC Projects and Funding Needs with City Budget Process
10. VAC School Contact Info
11. Military Alternative
12. Veterans Recognition Program



June 10, 2021
Meeting Agenda.pdf



Commissioner
Attendance_5.13.21.



May 13, 2021
Meeting Minutes.pdf



VAC Commission
Roster.docx



2020-21-Meetings
and Attendance.rtf



2020-22-Officers
and Election of Offi



Draft WI- Master
Candidate Interview



Draft WI
-Commission Roles &



Draft WI -
ALIGNING VAC PROJ



VAC school Contact
info.xlsx



Military
Alternative(draft 3).p



Veteran
Recognition Program