



VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETING

July 8, 2021 at 6 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order: 6:03 p.m. by Chairperson Charlip

Location: Virtual via WebEx

City Liaison(s): Alicia Romero – Military Liaison

A. Standing Business (Agenda at Atch 1)

1. Call to Order/Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance
Chairperson Ralph Charlip called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m., offered the invocation and led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Roll Call (Attendance at Atch 2)
 - a. Present Commissioners: Ralph Charlip, Watik Aleem, CW Fox, Cynthia Francis, Melissa Sayouthasad, Nathaniel Graff and Robert Chase
 - b. Absent Commissioner(s): Gregory Echols, Jeremy Lammon and Michael Spatter
 - c. Quorum: Yes
3. Approval of May 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes (Meeting Minutes at Atch 3)
Motion to approve the May 13, 2021 meeting minutes at 6:05 p.m. was made by Commissioner Chase and seconded by Commissioner Aleem. The motion was approved unanimously.
4. Guest Speaker:
Edgar Johansson, Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics
Edgar shared information about the purpose of the LASP and history all the way back to the 1960's. Annually they host at least 3 rocket launches a year. They are the tip of the spear for space science. Explained how they are connected to CU, but they are not a part of CU. Would be in the top 50 companies if they were not connected to the school. Most of the projects are funded by NASA and the remainder are with the US Air Force. Explained the depth and amount of missions they have ran. (INFO)
5. Public Comment(s) – Maximum Three (3) Minutes per Person
None
6. Vice Chairperson Report (VAC Commission Roster at Atch 4)
Chairperson Charlip asked Commissioners Fox and Francis in which Ward they resided. Commissioner Fox is in Ward 6 and Commissioner Francis in Ward 3. Chairperson Charlip will provide that information to Vice Chairperson Lammon.
7. Chairperson Report
 - a. Chairperson Charlip clarified that the proposal for the Veteran Population Study is not for



- funding, but for a request for information to industry to get a cost and time estimate. He asked that Alicia Romero please clarify that with the city. (OPEN)
- b. A senior official from the Arapahoe-Douglas Works office has invited veteran groups to a meeting on July 27th @ 1pm to coordinate veteran events in the community. Chairperson Charlip will be attend but will be in attendance but late. Commissioner Aleem is planning to attend and Commissioner Chase asked that the information be sent to him. Chairperson Charlip said he would do so. (OPEN: Charlip)
8. City Liaison Report:
- a. Quarterly Financial Report (January, April, July and October)
 - 1) The Commission's Grants and Gifts fund has a balance of \$1294.
 - 2) The Commission's Prime Account has a balance of \$3649 and accounts payable of \$27 for name tags.
 - b. Veteran Population Study: Alicia Romero will pass Chairman Charlip's request onto city staff.(OPEN: Staff)
 - c. Service Member Policies within the City: Alicia Romero reported that the City just approved new policies that have been approved to support our current employees who are also Service Members. The changes include: increasing military leave from 15 to 25 days; if the deployment lasts at least 30 days, matching the difference between the military pay and city salary (does not include allowances) and allowing military spouse 1.5 days paid time off if the sponsor's deployment lasts 30 or more days to allow the spouse to support the deployment. (INFO)
9. Project Reports
- a. Coffman Homeless Veteran Project: City Council passed the proposal on June 28th. The VAC will receive monthly reports and will be asked to make a recommendation regarding continuation of the pilot in a year. Chairperson Charlip will provide a copy of the latest contract to all commissioners. (OPEN: Charlip)
 - b. Outreach, Social Media, Web Site: Commissioner Sayouthasad sent an email to Jamie with the links to additional resources for posting on the VAC website. She also provided the Commissioners with a cut-and-paste posting for Next-Door social media sites to market the VAC (OPEN: Sayouthasad)
 - c. VSO Engagement: Commissioner Aleem is still working with the United Veterans of Colorado Coalition to identify Aurora VSOs. He would also like the new UVC president to speak to the VAC and Chairperson Charlip offered October or December as possible dates. (OPEN: Aleem)
 - d. Water Bill Insert: This was published in June. (CLOSED)
 - e. Promote Military Service (Students): Commissioner Fox has contacted the 16 Aurora high schools and will reconnect with them later in the fall when schools are back in session. He will also ask if the school has a JRTOC program. (OPEN: Fox)
 - f. JROTC Collaboration: No updates (OPEN: Chase)
10. Liaison Updates:
- a. Aurora Defense Council: Commissioner Echols was not in attendance. (OPEN: Echols)
 - b. Colorado Freedom Memorial: Chairperson Charlip had a meeting with Rick Crandall who is happy to work directly with the committee with the memorial and have been invited to the Veteran's Day event. Mr Crandall also extended an invitation for a tour if Commissioners are interested. If you are please let Commissioner Charlip know. (OPEN: Echols)



- c. Veterans Court: There are three veterans enrolled in the court and the Court is looking for a suitable space for meetings between enrollees and mentors. (OPEN: Aleem)
- d. UVC: See 9c (OPEN: Aleem)
- 3. JCF: Commissioner Chase is anticipating attending the next quarterly meeting. (OPEN: Chase)

B. Old Business

- 1. Policy Review: The two policies that were sent for review, 2020-31 and 2020-41 have had comments submitted and need to be updated. (OPEN: Lammon)
- 2. Veteran Oral History Project: No comments were received. Item closed. (CLOSED)
- 3. Veteran Recognition Program: Nate Graff recommended a title for Volunteer category, Service Member Volunteer of the Year. No voiced concerns, Commission agrees. Eligibility for the award to change to the updated Service Members, Guard, Reserve and Retired. No voiced concerns, Commission agrees. Setting up a form of eligibility to the COA. Suggest not to have a discharge requirement. Did not come to an agreement. (OPEN: Graff and Spatter)
- 4. Defense Council August Awards Luncheon: There are six individuals schedule to attend at Commission expense. Greg will forward the list of those attending to Jamie. (OPEN: Echols)
- 5. Veterans Day and Memorial Day Celebration: Chairperson Charlip suggested the theme be about City Employees who are Service Members and asked commissioners to bring ideas to support that theme, or to suggest another theme to the next meeting. (OPEN: Charlip/Echols)
- 6. Rotary Service Project Partnership: Commissioner Lammon was not in attendance. (OPEN: Lammon)
- 7. Certificate to recognize a veteran's passing. Commissioner Chase reported that the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office has such a program and Chairperson Charlip ask him to share the Sheriff office's policy. (OPEN: Chase/Aleem)

C. New Business

- 1. Commissioners have received their name tags and shirts. Alicia Romero asked who needed business cards and agreed to share her card so commissioners could see what information they need to supply. (OPEN: Staff)
- 2. The August guest speaker will be from the Aurora Housing Authority (INFO)
- 3. New Commissioner Spots: Chairperson Charlip reported on two possible candidates. He also reported that he had talked to the Buckley AFB Garrison Senior Enlisted Advisor who is checking with the base legal office to see if active duty members can serve on the commission. Chairperson Charlip asked commissioners to help recruit individuals to fill the two commission vacancies. (INFO)



Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM. The next meeting will be August 12, 2021.

Future 12 Meetings:

- 2021: 9 September, 14 October, 11 November, 9 December
- 2022: 13 January, 10 February, 10 March, 14 April, 12 May, 9 June, 14 July, 8 August

Meeting Minutes transcribed by:

Alicia Romero

Approved: _____

Date: _____

Attachments:

1. Agenda
2. Attendance
3. June 2021 Meeting Minutes
4. VAC Commission Roster
5. Meetings and Attendance