

**Veterans Commission  
Meeting Minutes**

September 11, 2023

**Present:** Alfred Banfield, Hank Scherf, Mary Cravalho, Brandon Jones, Stan Maupin, Aditi Patel, Mark Mcvay

**Staff:** Ed Kiryczn, Marci Dragun, John Nibbelin, Samay Chhun, Alex Ayag

**Public Comments By:** None

Topic	Discussion	Actions/Next Steps
<b>Meeting called to order &amp; Pledge of Allegiance Recited</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm</li><li>- Pledge of allegiance and roll call taken – 7 present</li></ul>	No Additional actions or steps
<b>Approval of minutes &amp; adoption of agenda</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Minutes from July 17, 2023 commission meeting were adopted</li><li>- Veterans Commission meeting agenda was adopted.</li><li>- Minutes approved 7 Y/ 0 N</li><li>- Agenda approved 7 Y/ 0 N</li></ul>	No Additional actions or steps
<b>Public Comments</b>	None	No Additional actions or steps

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No Additional actions  
or steps

## 2022 TO 2023 COMPARISON

Measure	2022 Jan to Sept	2023 Jan to Sept	Difference
Veteran Interactions *	1673	2031	358
Total Retroactive received	\$1,554,884.79	\$2,884,647.89	\$1,329,763.1
Total Monthly Assistance	\$205,017.40	\$335,467.89	\$130,450.49
Claims Submitted	632	835	203
College Fee Waivers Granted	108	102	-6
College Fee's Waived	\$844,020.00	\$797,130.00	\$-46,890.00

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<p><b>Veterans Commission Business (Continued)</b></p>	<p><b>Ed Kiryczun, VSO Operation Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PACT ACT claims can still be file despite VA saying there is a deadline.</li> </ul> <p><b>Alex Ayag, Update on Website</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Healthcare connect is still in progress. There are challenges in navigating the website.</li> <li>- Building up resources on the website</li> <li>- Hoping to get a rough draft done by next Veteran Commission meeting.</li> <li>- Outreach expanding to San Mateo city Library once a month.</li> <li>- At Burlingame Library planning an event during Veterans week for panels. Each Vet from each era to tell their story.</li> <li>- Looking for mediator and student Veteran (had reach out to VROC but no response yet)</li> </ul>	<p>No additional actions or steps</p>
<p><b>Veterans Commission Business (Continued)</b></p>	<p><b>Brandon Jones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Legislative updates: SB726 Retirement Tax Exemption</li> <li>- Was referred to committee of revenue tax exemption</li> <li>- Was passed and now put in suspension after 1<sup>st</sup> hearing got cancelled</li> <li>- SB Travel request at Colma Village Bus Station (SAMS TRANS)</li> <li>- Original request was to get commission help in getting another station near Colma village. A lot of challenges for Vet to walk</li> </ul> <p><b>Updates on reasons why they can't extend:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Paratransit engages with veterans at village</li> <li>- Shuttle operation has insufficient ridership</li> <li>- Funding to location is in place with a project in documentation phase</li> <li>- Tax voucher program for transportation</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	<p>-John Nibbelin to investigate SB726 to see if he find-out anything on the matter</p>

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<b>Veterans Commission Business (Continued)</b>	<p><b>Hank Sherf- Veteran of the Year Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Veteran of the Year: Al Adreveno; John Muller</li> <li>- Patriot of the Year: Peggy Toye</li> <li>- Enterprise of the Year: PGA HOPE NorCal</li> <li>- November 9, 2023, at The Westin San Francisco 11:30 am-1:30pm</li> </ul> <p><b>Donna Vaillancourt: Annual Working Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Every year update on work plan: Working draft. Everyone can decide with goals they want to work on</li> <li>- #1 Goal: Advocate legislative changes that benefits veterans and their families. Objective: researching and identifying relevant local, state, and federal legislation on Veteran well-being and meeting with county legislator to incorporate into the county</li> </ul>	<p>No Additional actions or steps</p>
<b>Veterans Commission Business (Continued)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- #2 Goal: Improving access for Mental Health Support and Suicide Prevention</li> <li>- Objective: Will leave open about what the lead would like to accomplish</li> <li>- #3 Goal: Address housing issue and reduce homelessness in San Mateo County</li> <li>- Objective: Supporting policies that address lack of affordable housing</li> <li>- Housing in Millbrae housing for Vets (would like to establish best practices outreach for Veterans) so that management companies know how they can provide</li> <li>- #4 Goal: Promoting public recognition and appreciation for contribution of Veterans.</li> <li>- Hank S. team lead. Strong understanding for this to participate and support events and ceremonies on significant date and holidays</li> <li>- #5 Goal: To ensure San Mateo County families are aware of available services and understand how they can address those services</li> </ul>	<p>No Additional actions or steps</p>

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<p><b>Veterans Commission Business (Continued)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Objective: To host Veteran service providers networking event or annual event summit (care providers)</li> <li>- Purpose is to be a lead organization that provide services for Vets and family to identify key needs, gaps and explore solution to improve access to resources and strengthen connection for ongoing partnership, collaboration, and coordination, etc.</li> </ul> <p>Commission for specific goals:            # 1 (Aditi P and Cory B)            #2 (Mary C and Brandon J)            #3 (Al B, Kyle C and Stan M)            #4 (Hank S, Mark M and Stan M)            #5 (Donna V, Mark M and Al B)</p>	
<p><b>Adjournment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm</li> <li>- Adjourn approved 7 Y/ 0 N</li> </ul>	<p>No Additional actions or steps</p>