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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agenda Item</th>
<th>Minutes</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair Report: Chair Aleem</td>
<td>• encouraged commissioners to attend the October Virtual Defense Council meeting hosted by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.</td>
<td>- Chair Aleem to report out updates from Council meeting.</td>
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<td>Staff Report: Claudine McDonald</td>
<td>• provided Community Relations Division updates related to food access programs and youth outreach initiatives available to all community members, including veterans.</td>
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| Unfinished Business:     | Stand Down  
  o Comm. Chase will resume Stand Down planning meetings beginning 10/15 and they will occur bi-weekly.  
  o Comm. Chase & Charlip will meet to discuss Comm. Charlip’s recent Stand Down proposal which focuses on a mobile version of the original concept.  
  Strategic Plan By-Laws  
  o discussion about the strategic plan was postponed allowing more time to discuss working instructions and by-laws.  
  o 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.  
  o 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.  
  Working Instructions  
  o 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.  
  Response to Mayor Coffman re: support for veterans experiencing homelessness  
  o discussion postponed until November.  
  o commission agreed to send an update to Mayor Coffman to advise that the commission is identifying ways to proceed. | - Comm. Chase to provide Claudine an updated proposal based on outcome of meeting with Comm. Charlip.  
  - Comm. Charlip will send updated by-laws to CRD for distribution to the commission.  
  - Claudine will provide update at 11/12 meeting.  
  - Joshua will submit updated Working Instructions to the City Clerk for review.  
  - Chair Aleem will submit an update to Mayor Coffman re: support for veterans experiencing homelessness. |
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| **Feedback from Councilmember Gruber** | o provided updates regarding various initiatives and outreach work in which the councilmember is involved:  
- Veteran Support Office for Adams and Arapahoe Counties supported in part by city of Aurora  
- Veteran Municipal Court is coming soon to city of Aurora.  
| o 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:  
- Armed Service Member Recognition Day  
- 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. | |

Meeting Adjoumed: 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