



**City of Milpitas
Veterans Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 6, 2017
5:30 p.m.**

**Milpitas City Hall Committee Room
455 E. Calaveras Blvd.
Milpitas, CA 95035**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Ebright called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

II. FLAG SALUTE: Chair Ebright led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Present: Denny Weisgerber, William (Bill) Devereux, Arthur Ebright, Ed Ackerman, Liliana Ramos, Ricardo Martinez, John Schmidt

Excused Absence: Dana Arbaugh and Andre Ramones

Late Attendance: None

Unexcused Absence: None

City Staff Present: Staff Liaison Dale Flunoy, Recreation Services Director Renee Lorentzen, and Recording Secretary Pam Caronongan

Chair Ebright reported that Commissioner Dana Arbaugh had submitted a letter of resignation to Mayor Tran, which Mayor Tran had confirmed to be true.

In addition, Mayor Tran shared that Commissioner Arbaugh turned in a commission application for the Library Advisory Commission.

IV. SEATING OF ALTERNATES: Ricardo Martinez and John Schmidt were seated as voting members.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: DECEMBER 6, 2017

M/S: Weisgerber / Ramos

AYES: All

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

OCTOBER 4, 2017

M/S: Weisgerber / Ramos

AYES: All

VII. PUBLIC FORUM

None

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COORESPONDENCE

None

IX. OLD BUSINESS

1. Veterans Recognition Lunch 2017

Chair Ebright opened the discussion, sharing with the Commission that he received numerous favorable and positive comments regarding the event, and that he would like for the Commission to continue having this event.

Vice-Chair Weisgerber and the rest of the Commissioners agreed with Chair Ebright's comments,

sharing feedback that they respectively received from attendees.

Commissioner Ackerman proposed for the Commission to send the honorable mention winner for Veteran of the Year, Kraig Bunnell, to thank him for attending the event and to acknowledge him for his years of service to the country.

Motion: for the Commission to send Kraig Bunnell a Thank You letter acknowledging his attendance to the Veterans Recognition Lunch as well as his years of military service.

M/S: Ackerman / Schmidt

AYES: All

Commissioner Ramos proposed that the Commission would write Thank You letter to all the Veteran of the Year nominees. Commissioner Ackerman agreed with Commissioner Ramos, along with the proposal to present certificates to the nominees.

Chair Ebright proposed to send a Thank You letter to Noel Jackson's family. Mr. Jackson was this year's winner of Veteran of the Year. Commissioner Ackerman proposed further to contact the photographer from the Milpitas Post, so that the Commission can request pictures from the event and share them with the Veteran of the Year nominees and winner.

Motion: for the Commission to send Noel Jackson's family a Thank You letter acknowledging his selection as Veteran of the year, the family's attendance to the Veterans Recognition Lunch, as well as thanking Mr. Jackson's family for his years of military service.

M/S: Ebright / Ackerman

AYES: All

X. NEW BUSINESS

1. Veterans Commission Fundraising

Recreation Services Director Lorentzen opened the discussion by acknowledging the continued success of the Veterans Car Show, adding that the Commissioner have many options in terms of fundraising efforts that the Commission would like to engage in so that money would be generated to fund the Commission's supported projects and causes.

Recreation Services Director Lorentzen and Staff Liaison Flunoy shared with the Commission a handful of fundraising ideas in addition to the Car Show such as hosting a gala dinner.

Commissioner Ackerman proposed for the gala dinner to be a "black tie" event open to veterans not just from Milpitas but also from other cities. Vice-Chair Weisgerber agreed with the proposal, adding that the event could be called a "military ball." The proposed formal event would have a "live band," dinner, and dancing.

Recreation Services Director Lorentzen suggested for the gala dinner to be held in the Community Center, which would be spacious and would not cost the Commission any money to rent the space. She further suggested that arrangements could be made to serve alcohol during the event.

Vice-Chair Weisgerber proposed for the Commission to form a subcommittee to explore the possibility of hosting a gala dinner. Chair Ebright asked for volunteers, with the Commission agreeing that the subcommittee would explore the possibility of hosting a gala dinner.

Vice-Chair Weisgerber and Alternate Member John Schmidt volunteered to be subcommittee members. The Subcommittee will report back to the Commission during the February 7, 2018 Commission meeting.

The Commission also explored other fundraising ideas such as selling Christmas trees or Sees Candies.

Commissioner Ackerman inquired if it would be possible to hold the annual Car Show plus another fundraising event. Recreation Services Director Lorentzen advised that the workload of doing two fundraising events would be heavy, and that the Commission maintain a balance to successfully continue its main purpose as the advisory body to the Milpitas City Council on veterans-related matters.

The Commission agreed to continue the discussion during the February 7, 2018.

XI. LIAISON REPORTS

a. City Council Report

Mayor Tran reported that he had been receiving citizen complaints regarding the transition from the City's old trash provider to the new provider.

b. Staff Report

Staff Liaison Flunoy reported that Recreation Services Director Lorentzen would be the first point-of-contact in the next three-and-a-half weeks since he would be out of the office.

Chair Ebright asked Staff Liaison Flunoy on an update regarding the Car Show since it had been cancelled this year.

Staff Liaison Flunoy reported that all expenses were covered and that some donors wished for the Commission to keep the donations – whether it be product or funds. The car show entrants who paid registrations fees and wished for reimbursement had already been reimbursed. Staff Liaison Flunoy further reported some items could still be used in the future since this year's Car Show date was not reflected on them such as one of the two dog tags as well as the trophies (the plate engraving on the trophies can be changed or updated).

XII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Memorial Day Ceremony 2018
- Veterans Commission 2018 fundraising efforts
- Veteran of the Year
- Adopt-A-Vet

Commissioner Ramos inquired fellow Commission members as to whether certificates of appreciation have already been sent to former Commission members. Vice-Chair Weisgerber replied that the Commission had not done this yet.

Motion: for the Commission to send certificates of appreciation to former Commission members for their service to the Veterans Commission.

M/S: Ramos / Weisgerber

AYES: All

XIII. NEXT MEETINGS

- Regular Meeting – Wednesday, February 7, 2018, at 5:30 p.m.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT – Chair Ebright adjourned the meeting at 6:16 p.m.

Draft Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Pam Caronongan, Deputy City Clerk