



**City of Milpitas
Veterans Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 2, 2021
5:30 p.m.**

**Via Teleconference
Milpitas, CA 95035**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Ramos called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. **FLAG SALUTE:** Chair Ramos led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **ROLL CALL**
Present: Arthur Ebright, Lilliana Ramos, Darl Travis, William (Bill) Devereux, Rocky Lallana, Reynaldo Lingad, Bruce Choy.

Absent: Victorino Monzon

City Staff Present: Recreation and Community Services Director Renee Lorentzen and Recording Secretary Pam Caronongan

Elected Officials Present: Mayor Rich Tran
4. **SEATING OF ALTERNATES:** Rocky Lallana
5. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA: June 2, 2021**
M/S: Devereux / Ebright AYES: All
6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 7, 2021**
M/S: Ebright / Travis AYES: All
7. **PUBLIC FORUM**
None
8. **ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE**
None
9. **BUSINESS ITEMS**
 - a. **Virtual Memorial Day 2021 / Veterans Day 2021 Ceremonies / Memorial Day 2022**
Commissioner Ebright expressed his satisfaction over the Virtual Memorial Day 2021 Ceremony's outcome and suggested for the event to have one instead of multiple links so that attendees would not miss any moments.

Commissioner Devereux requested for his last name to be spelled correctly in future events.

Recreation and Community Services Director Lorentzen complimented and thanked the Commission and Mayor Tran for their engagement, support, and feedback. Director Lorentzen advised the Commission that the links for the event are still available for sharing and viewing.

b. Veteran of the Year 2021

Director Lorentzen led the discussion regarding the modified form, outreach, and advertising for the nomination.

Mayor Tran shared that he would be nominating Jake Janitz – a recently deceased veteran who was engaged in serving the community for Veteran of the Year.

c. Addition of Veterans-Related Resources on City's Commission Website

Commissioner Ebright commented that American Legion Post 858, like most American Legion organizations and other entities, mostly work for their members alone and therefore would not be good candidates to add as resources on the City's website.

In addition, Commission Ebright mentioned a couple of organizations such as Veterans Services Support Agency (VSSA) in East San Jose assist veterans in filling out their service-connected disability paperwork and Know-A-Vet would be good to add to the City website. These two organizations help assist veterans in cutting through the red tape.

Chair Ramos suggested to add the website military.com which provides a link for veterans-related services and information.

Commissioner Choy suggested to add the Santa Clara County Veterans Services Office, Alameda County Veterans Services Office, and the California Department of Veterans Affairs to the City's website. Some of the services and programs offered through these two agencies not only benefit the veterans but also their families, one of those benefits including college tuition.

Recreation and Community Services Director Lorentzen stated that the Information Technology (IT) Department's help can be availed by adding a Geographic Information System (GIS) feature on the City's Commission Website to "[locate services that are near me.](#)"

d. Veterans Commission Work Plan

Recreation and Community Services Director Lorentzen led the discussion regarding the items listed in the Work Plan.

The Commission discussion and advisement provided by Director Lorentzen considered issues including but not limited to value and/or service provided to veterans and the community by the project or activity, outreach and advertising of activities or projects, availability of funds, and the pandemic.

The Commission agreed to further discussion Adopt-A-Vet and other projects that are geared to youth outreach during the next Commission meeting in August 2021.

Consensus was made by the Commission to accept the Work Plan as proposed by staff.

Motion to approve the draft Veterans Commission Work Plan FY 2021-22 as presented by staff and recommend final approval by City Council.

M/S: Choy / Ebright

AYES: All

e. **Milpitas HOPE Suicide Prevention Task Force**

Program Coordinator for Social Services Charu Aggarwal did an informative presentation for the Commission. In addition, Recreation and Community Services Director Lorentzen and Chair Ramos provided additional information and insight on how the Task Force and the Veterans Chamber of Commerce can aid veterans.

Chair Ramos sought the Commission's support to have the Washington DC's Veterans Chamber of Commerce to come in, observe the Commission meetings, and offer recommendations on how the Commission and the City can assist veterans in need of mental health resources.

Motion to allow the Veterans Chamber of Commerce to come in, observe for the next two meetings, and recommend ways in how the Commission and the City can assist veterans in need of mental health resources.

M/S: Ramos / Devereux

AYES: All

f. **Adopt-A-Vet**

This agenda item has been deferred to the Commission's August 3, 2021 regular meeting.

10. LIAISON REPORTS

1. City Council Report

Mayor Tran commended Commissioner Art Ebright and thanked him for his years in the Veterans Commission as well as community engagement and service. Mayor Tran presented Commissioner Ebright with the Key to the City.

2. Staff Report

Director Lorentzen updated the Commission regarding the Summer Guide, summer and outdoor programs, the Firecracker Run, and other activities.

11. ADJOURNMENT – Chair Ramos adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM

- Adopt-A-Vet and similar youth outreach program

13. NEXT MEETING

- Regular (Virtual) Meeting – Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

Draft Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Pam Caronongan, Recording Secretary