



**City of Milpitas
Veterans Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 4, 2018
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, John Schmidt, and Ricardo Martinez

Excused Absence: Andre Ramones

Late Attendance: None

Unexcused Absence: None

City Staff Present: Staff Liaison Dale Flunoy and Recording Secretary Pam Caronongan

Elected Officials Present: Council Liaison Mayor Tran and Councilmember Nuñez (as a member of the public and an observer)
- IV. **SEATING OF ALTERNATES:** Ricardo Martinez was seated as a voting member.
- V. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA: April 4, 2018**
M/S: Ramos / Ackerman AYES: All
- VI. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 7, 2018**
M/S: Weisgerber / Ramos AYES: All
- VII. **PUBLIC FORUM**
- Councilmember Nuñez reported back to the Commission regarding the City Council Subcommittee on Commission's recommendations to not make any changes to the Veteran's Commission. Councilmember Nuñez asked the Commission as to whether the Commissioners have any recommendations to share, as well as commended all the Commissions for the hard work that they do for the city.
 - Esenia Illescas, resident of 1549 Adams Avenue, inquired regarding military training or enlistment opportunities for graduate and alumni students – especially those who are considered as “delayed” entries. Mayor Tran and Chair Ebright offered provide more information after the meeting.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE

Staff Liaison Flunoy shared with the Commission regarding the MLK Candlelight Vigil and March being held immediately after the Commission meeting.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

None

X. OLD BUSINESS

1. Veterans Commission Fundraising

Chair Ebright led the discussion, with consensus being reached that important details regarding the proposed Scholarship Fund must be solidified soon – such details include but would not be limited to criteria required to qualify for the scholarship, who could apply for the scholarship and be successfully considered as a scholar/recipient, and for what type of education can the scholarship be used for, the number of times can a recipient be awarded, and how much per occurrence can a recipient be awarded for.

In addition to the scholarship details, consensus has also been made to solidify details on advertising the availability of scholarship funds, how will the scholarships be funded and/or replenished, and how to reach out to the sponsors and solicit their respective buy-in for successful donation and support efforts.

Also discussed in addition to the Scholarship Fund is supporting non-profit organizations that directly support the City of Milpitas and resident veterans. The Commission acknowledged that there has been a lack of “direct presence” of a non-profit organization that help resident veterans.

Motion: for the Commission to establish Scholarship Fund.

M/S: Ackerman / Ramos

AYES: All

Motion: for the Commission to direct Subcommittee to draft Sponsor letter, and for the Commission to call a Special Meeting to approve the draft Sponsor letter.

M/S: Ackerman / Devereux

AYES: All

2. Memorial Day Ceremony 2018

Vice Chair Ackerman, as a member of the Subcommittee for the Memorial Day Ceremony 2018, reported to the Commission that he, Commissioner Devereux, and Josh Clevenger from the City’s Recreation Services met on March 28, 2018 and shared with the Commission what the three had discussed regarding the ceremony.

Staff Liaison Flunoy stated that staff, as always, would do the best to accommodate as much as possibly could to appease the veterans but asked for the Commission’s understanding that not all requests would be accommodated.

The Commission discussed matters such as the keynote speaker, the possibility of a Commissioner – such as Commissioner Weisgerber – fulfilling the role as keynote speaker, songs played during the ceremony, Memorial wreath, dignitaries who would be attending the ceremony, Military Taps, 21-gun salute, the need for a Veterans table and materials for distribution, and other logistical details.

XI. LIAISON REPORTS

a. City Council Report

None

b. Staff Report

None

Commissioner Ramos shared with the Commission that Tri-Care Dental for retirees is ending on December 31, 2018, and that retiree participants should ensure that Tri-Care West is properly taking out deductions to ensure that coverage is not interrupted.

XII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Veteran of the Year
- Adopt-A-Vet

XIII. NEXT MEETING

- Regular Meeting – Wednesday, June 6, 2018, at 5:30 p.m.
- Special meeting might be scheduled before Memorial Day Ceremony 2018

XIV. ADJOURNMENT – Chair Ebright adjourned the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

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