

LOS ANGELES COUNTY VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION

2615 S. GRAND AVE., SUITE 100
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90007



United We Stand



Joseph N. Smith
Director

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING Wednesday, March 9, 2011

Present:

Commissioners

Ramon Rodriguez
Dave Culmer
Rudy Garcia
Carvel Gay
Steve Rosmarin

County Department

Military and Veterans Affairs

Colonel Joseph Smith, Director
Tatiana Rosas, Executive Secretary

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Ramon Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in the absence of Chair Stone and Vice Chair MacCarley. Commissioner Ramon Rodriguez asked the Mr. Jim McGiven, resident of the West Los Angeles Veterans Home lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Due to a lack of a quorum, only five Commissioners present, the approval of minutes was postponed for later in the meeting.

Roll Call

As noted above.

Chairman's Report

Due to the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair Commissioner Rodriguez decided to forego the Chairman's report.

Comments from Audience (three minutes each)

No comments from the Audience.

VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare Center – Dr. Ronald Hamm

Dr. Ronald Hamm was unable to attend meeting.

Absent:

Commissioners

Stephanie Stone, Chair
Mark MacCarley, Vice Chair
Bob Archuleta
Fred Flores

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VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System – Ralph Tillman

Mr. Ralph Tillman was unable to attend meeting.

Veterans Home Support Committee – Steve Rosmarin

Commissioner Steve Rosmarin stated that he met with Louis Koff, Terrence Lyons, Annenberg Foundation, and Chair Stone on the motion to form a sub-committee for the Veterans Home Support Committee and review the by laws and make recommendations. Commissioner Rosmarin reiterated the fact that both Lancaster and Ventura have non-profit organizations, 501 (c) 3 committees which help the hospitals provide unfunded assistance to their resident patients. He's hoping for the same for the West Los Angeles Home. He extended an invite to the Commissioners to attend the next support committee meeting.

Commissioner Rodriguez stated that there is an AMVETS Post in Yountville and AMVETS supports with \$25,000 a month. He suggested to Commissioner Rosmarin that he would assist in setting up an AMVETS post and would bring a packet to next month's meeting.

Commissioner Rosmarin stated that everyone at the Home is extremely pleased with the food being prepared by the new caterer; "Happy Campers!" he stated.

Grants available in each of the five Supervisorial Districts

Due to a lack of quorum this Item is to be rolled over to next month's meeting.

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Report – Colonel Joseph Smith

Commissioner Rodriguez suggested foregoing the reading of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Department Report in lieu of Colonel Joseph N. Smith, Director's absence and accepts the report as written.

New Business

Nomination of new officers – it was agreed by the 5 Commissioners present that Colonel Smith will pull names from a box for a new Chair and Vice Chair.

Commissioner Gay; stated that while in Sacramento he spoke with Assemblymember Bonnie Lowenthal (54 District-Long Beach) and she mentioned that Chair Stone and her were very good friends and expressed a strong support for veterans. Commissioner Gay invited Assemblymember Lowenthal to a VAC meeting.

Commissioner Rodriguez suggested that the Commission wait in inviting Assemblymembers and celebrities until the Department has returned to Bob Hope Patriotic Hall where the surrounding are more favorable to accommodating very important guests.

Commissioner Rosmarin concurred with Commissioner Rodriguez's suggestion and said he met with Congressman Buck McKeon who also showed interest in attending a VAC meeting in the future.

Terrence Lyons, with the Metabolic Studio and Annenberg Foundation, is also a consultant at the "Strawberry Gazette," reiterated from last month's meeting that the Annenberg Foundation is very interested in the Project and in being one of the supporters to the Home. Commissioner Garcia suggested that Mr. Lyons inquire into a 501 c (19) for the Project; he stated that there are more write offs.

Commissioner Rodriguez suggested that the Commission discuss next month if they should participate in the Torrance Parade this year.

Commissioner Culmer suggested that next month the Commission should discuss on a motion to have the five Supervisors get involved in the land deed issue. The Attorney General and the ACLU has a pending law case. He

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also stated that he would forward a sample letter to the Commissioners to send if need be to their respective Supervisors.

Item's for Next Month's Agenda

Grants in the five Districts from each Commissioner

Veterans Home Support Committee – Steve Rosmarin

West Los Angeles Healthcare System – Ralph Tillman

New Director of National Cemetery – Lynette Parker

Commissioner Flores will invite two Veterans for April's meeting to offer the Invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Good of the Order

Commissioner Garcia; stated he had nothing for the good of the order.

Commissioner Gay; stated he had nothing for the good of the order.

Commissioner Rosmarin; stated that he was in Washington last week. That he and two other walked the halls in Congress and were approached by many people and shook their hands and said "Thanks for what you've done for the Country."

Commissioner Culmer; stated he had nothing for the good of the order.

Commissioner Rodriguez; stated that now that he is working with AM VETS he's been visiting various sites. He's currently gone to the AM VETS thrift shop in San Diego. The thrift shop makes over \$1 million a year and one is due to open in Long Beach, he encourages everyone to visit when open. He will be traveling to Washington, D.C. to the National Executive Committee meeting and will provide a report at next month's meeting.

Commissioner Rodriguez adjourned meeting at 2:20 p.m.

Tatiana Rosas
Executive Secretary
March 9, 2011

Note: The next Commission meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, April 13, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. in Suite 100 at the Department of Public Social Services site at 2615 S. Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA.