



REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, March 08, 2022 – 6:00 pm

Hosted Remotely via MS Teams

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CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME/President Mansori

President Mansori called the meeting to order at 6:07pm

ROLL CALL:

The VAC Secretary called the roll:

PRESENT: President Mansori, Vice-President Martin-Pinto, Commissioners William Barnickel, Douglas Bullard, Hanley Chan, Jason Chittavong, Deborah Dacumos, Courtney Miller, Victor Olivieri, Nicholas Rusanoff, Raymond Wong

ABSENT: Commissioners Joseph Baba (excused) Matthew Brauer (excused), Christopher McDonald (excused), Jeff Marshall (resigned from Commission effective 03/08/22)

Quorum present.

COMMUNICATIONS

Officers' Report:

- President
 - Executive Team continues to work on establishing the most effective administrative support system of the VAC. A lot of effort being taken to ensure VAC is set up for success, by sorting out what applies and what doesn't apply, and setting a foundation for future commission leadership.
 - President Mansori spoke briefly of the possibility of the Sergeant Major of the Army attending 2022 Memorial Day celebrations in San Francisco. More details will be covered during Events updates.
- Vice-President
 - Commissioner McDonald continues to recover in the hospital. Let's keep him in our thoughts, and drop in to visit if possible.
- Staff Secretary Report
 - 2/10/22 letter from the Mayor's Office announced delay to return of in-person meetings for non-chartered commissions. Pending update from the Mayor's Office, VAC regular monthly meetings will continue remotely via MS Teams. Once in-person meetings do return, WebEx will be added for public comment, etc.



- Migration to new website – City & County websites moving from sfgov.org to sf.gov. New VAC website should be ready in approx. 8-10 weeks.

Committee Reports

- Legislative Committee
 - No report
- Finance Committee
 - President Mansori noted chair position is vacant due to Commissioner Marshall's resignation. She asked for a volunteer to step in as committee chair. Commissioner Miller responded and will serve as Finance Committee Chair.
- Communications Committee
 - Memorial Day Planning Update: Commissioner Bullard said the Presidio National Trust is not involved in planning this year's Memorial Day ceremonies. Ceremony plans are being handled by administrative office of Golden Gate National Cemetery.
 - JROTC Update: Commissioner Bullard said four programs are in danger of being closed – Mission, Balboa, Galileo, and Burton. He has developed a steering committee to find funding and support – including pursuing congressional support. He will keep the commission updated on progress.
 - Army Partnership with SF Sheriff's Department: On April 14, a four-star Army General is scheduled to visit San Francisco's Palace of Fine Arts for an event in partnership with the San Francisco Sheriff's Department. Commissioner Bullard will have more details to share, and hopes several commissioners can attend event.
 - Commissioner Chittavong asked about restructuring Communications Committee. President Mansori responded the Executive Team is sorting out committee structures in conjunction with establishing administrative support of the secretary role. Further discussion of these efforts will be added to next meeting's agenda.
- Events Committee
 - Chair position is open and President Mansori asked anyone interested to please contact her.
 - The Office of the Sergeant Major of the Army (OSMA) has included San Francisco on a short list of potential locations for a Memorial Day visit. President Mansori provided the OSMA will an overview of a visit to San Francisco. Once a final decision has been reached by the OSMA, President Mansori will advise the commission.
- Rules Committee
 - No report from Committee Chair.
 - President Mansori announced changes to this committee's membership. Commissioner Chan will no longer serve on Rules Committee, but is welcome to serve on any other committee. Commissioner Martin-Pinto is appointed to Rules Committee.
- Ad Hoc Committee (SF Veteran Center)



- Commissioners Miller and Chittavong will meet with the new head of the Vet Center regarding lease status. As a reminder, the current lease terminates on 9/30/2024, and intention was to start the process of identifying new space in Q1 of 2022.
- Ad Hoc Committee (Veteran Justice Court Funding)
 - Commissioner Rusanoff gave an update about request to HSA for funding of two social services positions in support of CVSO and JVC. The position with CVSO remains under consideration, however position with Courts did not align with HSA funding guidelines. Committee will re-group with contact from Superior Court and strategize next steps for funding. President Mansori added that once next steps are determined, the Committee will bring to the commission's attention.
- Ad Hoc Committee (Below Market Rate program)
 - Video Presentation
[\[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vowNa9A6x_4&list=PL_cT4wZmgBBXQp226hXhqJL1VXZyrZ2CQ&index=2 \]](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vowNa9A6x_4&list=PL_cT4wZmgBBXQp226hXhqJL1VXZyrZ2CQ&index=2)
 - Commissioner Rusanoff provided an update regarding the disparate impact analysis report published by MOHCD on 2/28/22. BMR Committee will follow up regarding important data missing from the report that can be provided by CVSO. Further, BMR Committee will request MOHCD present their findings to the Veterans Affairs Commission during an upcoming regular meeting. President Mansori noted the BMR Committee's responsive action to the disparate impact analysis report will be added to a future meeting agenda.
- Ad Hoc Committee (Parks Legislation)
 - As communicated by Commissioner Chan, the Parks Legislation Committee has ended.

Supervisor Liaison Reports

- District 1: Sup. Chan – Commissioner Baba
 - President Mansori called for a new liaison for District 1.
- District 2: Sup. Stefani – Commissioner Miller
 - No report
- District 3: Sup. Peskin – Commissioner McDonald
 - No report
- District 4: Sup. Mar – Commissioner Barnickel
 - Supervisor Mar worked on amending the parks legislation that provides discounts to San Francisco veterans to include all veterans. Amendment was approved. Commissioner Barnickel acknowledged hard work of Supervisor Mar on behalf of veterans.
- District 5: Sup. Preston – Commissioner Dacumos
 - No report – but will follow up with Supervisor Preston about issues regarding four units in single homes.



- District 6: Sup. Haney – Commissioner Rusanoff
 - Met with Monica Barnett regarding issues affecting Dist. 6, including Veterans Alley. Ms. Barnett offered to be a liaison for Dist. 6 and Veterans Alley. Also offered support for BMR project by connecting Sup. Haney’s office with Sup. Mar to see if they can collaborate.
- District 7: Sup. Melgar – Commissioner Chan
 - No report – will meet with Sup. Melgar on Friday, and will keep commission updated.
- District 8: Sup. Mandelman – Commissioner Marshall
 - President Mansori asked for replacement for Dist. 8 (Commissioner Marshall), and Dist. 1 (Commissioner Baba).
 - District 1 new liaison is Commissioner Bullard
 - District 8 new liaison is Commissioner Dacumos
- District 9: Sup. Ronen – Commissioner Mansori
 - Due to her role as commission president, Commissioner Mansori asked that someone else take over as Dist. 9 liaison.
 - District 9 new liaison is Commissioner Miller.
- District 10: Sup. Walton – Commissioner Martin-Pinto
 - No report
- District 11: Sup. Safai – Commissioner Bullard
 - No report, but has discussed JROTC situation with Sup. Safai.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- Motion to approve February 8, 2022 regular meeting minutes
 - Motion seconded, and unanimously passed.
 - Minutes approved.

Absent: Baba, Brauer, McDonald

AGENDA CHANGES

- No agenda changes

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Events Planning for 2022 Update [Discussion]
 - Retreat for Commissioners and Public – April.
 - President Mansori noted the new information shared at this meeting regarding 4/14 event. Commission will move ahead and work with



Commissioner Bullard on details of 4/14 event, and determine ways commissioners can be involved.

- VSO Outreach at War Memorial
 - The Sergeant Major of the Army is highly likely to visit over Memorial Day Weekend. President Mansori noted VSO outreach will be included during this event.
- Policy Roundtable – August
 - President Mansori recommended policy roundtable be considered for 3Q as commission is in re-structuring mode and by 3Q will be more appropriate time for policy discussions. She opened the floor to commissioners for any comments. Vice-President Martin-Pinto suggests either August 18 or 25, President Mansori confirmed it will be a half-day event. Commissioner Chittavong requested earlier date. President Mansori responded that considering the many events coming up, and the current restructuring phase of the commission, the later date is best option.

NEW BUSINESS

- No new business to report.

GOOD WELFARE

This is the opportunity for members of the Veterans Affairs Commission to share special thanks and congratulatory remarks for the good welfare taking place in the veterans community.

- Get well wishes extended to Al Sims with CVSO and Commissioner McDonald.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Commissioner Chittavong shared the sad news about the passing of Elizabeth Fleming, the recently retired director of the Vets Center.

HONORS REPORT AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

In memory of American service members in all wars and conflicts who made the ultimate sacrifice. We also remember the passing of homeless veterans, veterans who died while awaiting approval of benefits, and suicides within the veteran and armed service communities.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:57PM



The next regular meeting of the Veterans Affairs Commission will be held on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 6:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Murphy
Secretary to Veterans Affairs Commission

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Veterans Affairs Commission Meetings:

General meetings of the SFVAC are scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month, with the exception for the month of July, when there is no scheduled SF VAC meeting, and are held in Room 416 in City Hall.

Meeting confirmation, and specific announcement of general meetings are made via public posting of the Meeting Agenda as required by law, at least 72 hours prior to scheduled meetings. Agendas for SFVAC meetings (and archived meeting minutes) are available on the SFVAC Pages of the City of San Francisco website, and are also available for public view and inspection at the 5th Floor Government Information Center at the San Francisco Public Library, at 100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102. The documents librarian telephone number is (415) 554-4472.

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Veterans Crisis Line



If you or a Veteran, you know is in immediate danger to themselves or others, please call 911 or visit your local emergency room.

The Veterans Crisis Line is also available by texting 838255 or by going to their website and chatting with a mental health professional.



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Support

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