

LOS ANGELES COUNTY VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION

1816 S. FIGUEROA STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90015



Jim Zenner
Director

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Present:

Commissioners

Anthony Allman
Jawana McFadden
Rocio Palmero
Patricia Jackson-Kelley
Chi Szeto
John Gutierrez
Dennis Anderson
Hugh Crooks

Absent:

Commissioners

Alfonso Noyola

County Department

Military and Veterans Affairs

Jim Zenner, Director
Stephanie Guerrero, Executive Secretary

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Allman at 1:35 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chair McFadden, 2nd District, announced the Salute Armed Forces Everyday S.A.F.E. acknowledgment, requesting all active-duty service members and veterans to stand up during the flag salute. She then proceeded to lead The Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Eight (8) Commissioners were at the meeting during roll call; a quorum was present. Commissioner Anderson attended the meeting virtually. Commissioner Noyola was absent from the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Jackson-Kelley to accept the Minutes for January 17, 2024, seconded by Commissioner Palmero. Commissioner Jackson-Kelley noted an error in her statement of the good of the order, which after a roll call was conducted to amend the Minutes and the motion passed with unanimous votes.

Chairman's Report

Chair Allman stated that the notice of meeting was sent out on February 14th at 9:50 p.m., via GovDelivery from MVA@subscriptions.lacounty.gov. To subscribe, please send an email to info@mva.lacounty.gov.

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (MVA) YouTube channel has grown with a total of 81 subscribers. The goal is to reach 100 and all Commission meetings are posted there.

The Veterans Advisory Commission has an annual reporting requirement. The Commission is currently on a fiscal year reporting cycle, but the bylaws have the Commission on a calendar year cycle. The Board Chair does not change on a fiscal year cycle, but rather on a calendar year cycle. All Commissioners present agreed that the reporting cycle should be aligned with the Board of Supervisors (BOS) calendar year as opposed to a fiscal year. Chair Allman requested Director Zenner to make a formal request to Commission Services to inquire further.

Public Comments

None.

Guest Speakers

Black History Month Dedication: *Women on the Grow*, Dr. Jewel Diamond Taylor spoke on the significance of Black History Month. In 1976, President Ford decided to acknowledge the contributions of Black America in February, as it was the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, who were forerunners in the Freedom movement. People of color were often seen as profit and property, not citizens, and experienced tremendous oppression and lack of opportunities. Dr. Taylor emphasized the significance of remembering and preserving the contributions of those who preceded us, those who left their footprints, thereby enabling our current state. She stated that Black History Month is celebrated to remember and celebrate the sacrifices of people of color. Education is crucial in getting rid of hatred and division, and history is important but not to glorify people or facts. The goal is to motivate the younger generation to know who they stand on, like Harriet Tubman, who helped over 300 people have freedom. Dr. Taylor referenced various African Americans who have contributed greatly and represent Black History and concluded her presentation by reciting her very own poem.

Recommendation #5: Bob Hope Patriotic Hall Historic Designation Status

MVA followed up with the Department of Regional Planning regarding clarification. The Department of Regional Planning provided additional background which was incorporated into the draft recommendation.

A motion was made by Commissioner Crooks to submit Recommendation #5 to the BOS, seconded by Commissioner Jackson-Kelley. Commissioner Allman read the recommendation into the record. Commissioner Allman annotated an error in paragraph seven, which should say "may take *approximately* 5 to 12 months."

Commissioner Allman also requested to change the header name from LACVAC to "Los Angeles County Veteran Advisory Commission." A motion was made by Commissioner Crooks to amend the motion to include the changes, Commissioner Szeto seconded; a roll call was conducted with unanimous votes and the recommendations were adopted. The recommendation will be submitted to Commission Services after all Commissioners sign it electronically.

Recommendation #6: In honor of LTC Patricia Jackson-Kelley

A motion was made by Commissioner Palmero for a discussion of Recommendation #6, seconded by Commissioner Crooks. Vice Chair McFadden read the recommendation into the record. On February 21st, 2024, the Veterans Advisory Commission recommends that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors honor Lieutenant Colonel Patricia Jackson-Kelley, retired for outstanding achievements, valuable contributions, and distinguished service, resulting in her induction into the U.S. Army Women’s Foundation Hall of Fame. Vice Chair McFadden proposed an edit for retired to “(USA Ret.)” Commissioner Jackson-Kelley asked for a correction on the spelling of her last name in the last paragraph from Kelly to “Kelley.” Lastly, Commissioner Allman requested a formatting change on the full spelling of LACVAC to “Los Angeles County Veteran Advisory Commission.”

Commissioner Palmero made a motion to accept the changes to Recommendation #6, seconded by Commissioner Crooks. A roll call was conducted with unanimous votes and the recommendations were adopted.

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Report

Director Zenner gave updates on the following:

- 1. Visit to DC
 - a. Worked with CALVET as part of a research and surveillance team group regarding the Governor’s Challenge and Veterans’ Suicide with a focus on accurate data
 - b. NACo Legislative Conference
 - c. Justice Involved Veterans
- 2. Visit to Sacramento with NACVSO
 - a. Highlight was having the Chair of the Senate Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, and the Chair of the Assembly
- 3. Launched The Homeless Services Division
 - a. Will produce a quarterly report
- 4. MVA Organizational Chart
- 5. Metro visit

A discussion was held on the ideal organizational structure for the Department’s mission.

Agenda Items for Future Meetings

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| 1. Veteran Advisory Commission | VAC logo discussion | Anthony Allman |
| 2. Veteran Advisory Commission | Organizational structure | Dennis Anderson |

Good of the Order

Commissioner Crooks, SD 1 – He attended the Board Meeting on February 13th and was presented with a scroll for Black History Month.

Commissioner Palmero, SD 1 – She extended her gratitude to the support of the Director and Acting Chief Deputy of MVA for the Valentine’s Day Luncheon for veteran women.

Vice Chair Jackson-Kelley, SD 2 – She attended the Valentine’s Day Luncheon women veterans event and was impressed by the caliber of presentations. She also attended the Memorial Service for CPL Lena King, one of 6,888 members who passed away 17 days before her 101st birthday. She stated that the service was beautiful.

Vice Chair McFadden, SD 2 – Nothing to add.

Chair Allman, SD3 – Nothing to add.

Commissioner Szeto, SD4 – The Fourth District will have an upcoming Veterans Town Hall at the American Gold Star Manor in Long Beach.

Commissioner Gutierrez, SD5 – Nothing to add.

Commissioner Anderson, SD 5 – First, he would like to thank Director Zenner and VPAN representatives who are doing work in the Fifth District. Second, the Vice Chair was able to attend a memorial service for Palmer Andrews, 98 year-old WWII Marine who participated in the Peleliu and Okinawa Campaigns. Lastly, he is grateful for the opportunity to attend via Microsoft Teams due to his relocation to the State of Washington. Board Deputy Roberto Alvarez is in active search for the Fifth District Commissioner replacement.

The meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m.

Loida Blackley, Management Analyst
Administrative Services Division
February 21, 2024