April 24, 2019, NAPA COUNTY VETERANS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER: 1:31PM ROLL CALL and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:
Frank Lucier Chair
Bernie Narvaez Vice Chair
Bill O’Byrne
Joel Levitt
Johnny Karpuk
Tom Sabo
James Shupe

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:
Rose Sheehan Secretary
Mark Riordan

II. introduction and Welcome of new Commission members:
Introduction of new commissioner Joel Levitt filling out a two-year term
Introduction of new commissioner Johnny Karpuk filling out a four-year term

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: (by motion)
   MOTION: to approve agenda by Commissioner Shupe
   SECOND: Commissioner Narvaez
   PASSED: Unanimous

V. APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES: (by motion)
   Minutes for last meeting unavailable

VI. VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER REPORT:
   VSO not available today

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT:
   No Public Comments

Viii. OLD BUSINESS:
   A. Keith Armstrong and Brandina Jersky introduced from the San Francisco VA. They discussed their mission to liaison with Committees and Commissions to increase VA presence and services in communities. They are branding this with student Vets and are instrumental in VA presence at Napa Valley College Campus. They hope to poll VA vas in Napa County in the model of 22 VISN’s across the USA (Veterans’ Integrated Service Networks). MediCal office currently tracks Vets for data re connecting more eligible vets. There is an opportunity of securing a FTE for an MSW/MFT to do mental health services here in Napa one day a week to start. services in current VA model
arising via a phone app at NVC and H &HS locations as well as attend NCVC meets. They are currently seeking a vet-familiar, flexible and creative, mature and energetic individual to fill this position. The pay is very competitive with Gov’t benefits. They ask we put the word out to potential applicants.

PRO’S:
Accessible and KNOWN locations to VETS
Keeping Svcs in Napa County vs long trips
Avoiding rapidly worsening travel conditions in Napa County
Meets a need for local data collection

B. Commissioner Lucier has spoken to BOS Wagenknecht about having a commission meeting in District #1. There will be a meeting in the Board Chambers possibly the next meeting May 22, 2019.
   MOTION: Commissioner Narvaez to have meeting in District #1
   Second: Commissioner Shupe
   PASSED: YES. OPPOSED Commissioner O’Byrne
   Chair will facilitate setting this meeting up

C. Letter drafted by Commissioner Narvaez to BOS requesting CBOC in Napa County discussed.
   Motion to Narvaez: to review the letter individually and send suggested changes to Commissioner Lucier who will compile them and forward to Commissioner Narvaez.
   Second: Commissioner Karpuk
   Passed: unanimous

D. Motion to approve Commission Strategic Plan for 2019
   Motion to accept the strategic plan by Commissioner O’Byrne
   Second: Commissioner Shupe
   Passed: unanimous

IX: NEW BUSINESS PER AGENDA:
A. Ed Warren of Yountville VHA. is not present. Will reschedule with him.
B. Congressman Thompson’s Staff unable to attend, will reschedule for next Commission meeting.

X. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

JOBS AND BENEFITS: Has not met recently. Needs revamping due to new Commissioners

TRANSPORTATION: No quorum so no meeting in April

XI. AD HOC COMMITTEES:
XI. Commissioner Sabo reported on progress of War Dead List as actively being compiled. He is also discussing having a hosted meeting with the Elks club Veterans committee to discuss possible collaboration and funding for this project and others of mutual interest. Sabo will contact Elks and set up a time for H&MH subcommittee to attend their meeting.

XII: COMMISSIONER REPORTS: Commissioner Lucier received an email from Supervisor Wagenkencht about the movie “From Shock to Awe”. Some vets had recommended this movie as help for PTSD. After reviewing the trailer of the movie Commissioner Lucier found that the movie as it recommended the use of Ayahuasca, a controlled substance. The Commission discussed this and all felt this was not consistent with our mission, nor a good idea to promote regulated and illegal substances in the Vet’s community.

We should also this time in the agenda for each Commissioner to report on individual outreach efforts in making contact in the Veteran’s Community in Napa County. Chairman Lucier was recently interviewed in a neighborhood magazine about his experiences on the Commission and referring Vets to the VSO for help.

XIII: FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:
A. Discuss assigning new commissioners to Standing Committees
B. Further discuss CVNL (Volunteer Org.) involvement in our efforts.

XIV: ADJOURNMENT: (by motion)
MOTION: Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Narvaez
SECOND: Commissioner Sabo
PASSED: Unanimous

Adjourned 3:30PM

Next Meeting Wednesday May 22, 2019 at 1:30PM Blue Oak Room 650 Imperial Way Napa, CA 94559 unless otherwise notified (See VIII.B)

Thomas Sabo
jets94558@yahoo.com