

VETERANS COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA



City of Lake Stevens Vision Statement

By 2030, we are a sustainable community around the lake with a vibrant economy, unsurpassed infrastructure and exceptional quality of life.

February 6, 2023 - 7:00 PM

HYBRID MEETING - TWO WAYS TO PARTICIPATE:

In Person: The Mill, Sawyers Room, 1808 Main Street OR
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83866720040>
or call in at: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 838 6672 0040

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call**
4. **Public Comment**
5. **Approval of Minutes**
 - A. January 9, 2023
6. **Discussion / Action Items**
 - A. Business Recognition
 - B. Principal Themes – 2022 Veterans Community Survey (Eugene)
 - C. Newsletter (Debbie)
 - D. Partner Network (Kurt)
 - E. Commissioner Recruitment (Kurt)
7. **New Business**
 - A.
 - Adopt a Highway (Samara & Vern)
 - Coffee Klatch (Debbie & Kim)
 - Community Events (All)
 - Emergency Response Planning (Dennis)
 - Job Fair (Kim & Dennis)
 - Veterans Service Office (VSO) Support (Open)
8. **Upcoming Agenda Items**

9. Adjourn

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND

The City of Lake Stevens strives to provide accessible opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Please contact Human Resources, City of Lake Stevens ADA Coordinator, (425) 622-9400, at least five business days prior to any City meeting or event if any accommodations are needed. For TDD users, please use the state's toll-free relay service, (800) 833-6384, and ask the operator to dial the City of Lake Stevens City Hall number.

**CITY OF LAKE STEVENS
VETERANS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, January 9, 2023

HYBRID MEETING – The Mill, Sawyers Room or Via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Kevin McLarnon, Debbie Welch, Kim Daughtry, Vernon Rasmussen, Eugene Gabrys and Dennis Ives (Arrived at 7:10 p.m.)

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Marcus Tageant, Samara Heydon and Kurt Hilt

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Kelly Chelin, City Clerk

Call to Order: The meeting was called together at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION. Commissioner Daughtry made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McLarnon, to excuse the absent members. The motion passed 6-0-0-3.

Public Comment: None.

Note: Commissioner Ives joined the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

MOTION. Commissioner Daughtry made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McLarnon, to nominate Commissioner Welch to be the Chair.

Commissioner Welch respectfully declined due to other time commitments.

MOTION. Commissioner McLarnon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Welch, to nominate Commissioner Hilt to be the Chair. The motion passed 6-0-0-3.

MOTION. Commissioner McLarnon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Daughtry, to nominate Commissioner Welch as Vice Chair. The motion passed 6-0-0-3.

MOTION. Commissioner Daughtry made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Welch, to have Commissioner McLarnon continue to Chair this meeting. The motion passed 6-0-0-3.

Approval of Minutes for December 5, 2022.

Commissioner McLarnon made an amendment to the minutes on page 3 for the sentence to read as follows:

“Office space for community services, including space for a Veterans Services Officer (VSO) should be available in the new Food Bank building. More to come on this topic.”

Discussion – Current Activities:

Business Recognition – ongoing.

Community Survey – Commissioner Daughtry recognized the work that Commissioner Welch and Commissioner Gabrys did on the survey. Commissioner Welch recognized the work that Commissioner McLarnon did as well. The Commission discussed the results of the survey. The Commission discussed going through the survey results and making a list of priorities for the Commission to focus on. Commissioner Gabrys volunteered to coming up with categories to focus on. He will bring this back to the next meeting.

Newsletter – will be going out in March.

Partner Network/Veterans Service Officer (VSO) – ongoing.

Purple Heart Sign – this is complete.

MOTION. Commissioner Daughtry made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Welch, to move the Veterans Service Officer agenda item to Active, not on hold. The motion passed 6-0-0-3.

New Business

Commissioner McLarnon reported to the Commission that he will be stepping down from the Commission. He is available for any help in the future. The Commission thanked Commissioner McLarnon for his time and service.

Adjourn: It was moved by Commissioner Daughtry, seconded by Commissioner McLarnon, to adjourn the meeting. On motion the vote carried (6-0-0-3). There being no further business, Commissioner McLarnon adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

Kelly Chelin, City Clerk

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 6, 2023

TO: Members of the Lake Stevens Veterans Commission

FROM: Eugene Gabrys, Veterans Commission Community Member

SUBJECT: Principal Themes – 2022 Veterans Community Survey

The report on the Lake Stevens Veterans Community Survey (Survey) completed in December 2022, includes respondents' suggestions for activities and events that would benefit the Veterans community. Five general topical areas framed into themes have been identified from the suggestions. The themes are Community Connection, Benefits and Programs, Support Groups and Social Activities, Financial and Budgetary, and Veterans and Families.

A thematic matrix on page 2 of this memorandum is a distillation of information derived from the Survey report and Lakes Stevens Veterans Commission (LSVC) records. The matrix is arranged into two columns. The left column contains the idiosyncratic themes and the right column lists select recommendations from the Survey report aligning with the respective theme. There were duplicative suggestions, commentary entries and recommendations that have already been actioned on by the LSVC. Those entries are accounted among the archetypical themes. Additionally, the bifurcation of information for example recommendations within a given theme illustrate commensurate activity having been undertaken by the LSVC.

Principal themes generally parallel support assistance categories listed in the Survey. What may seem contrary, the themes are not exclusive of representative support activities. An activity that falls into the rubric of Benefits and Programs could also address Financial and Budgetary challenges. Recommendations spanning more than one theme tend to be contextually similar and trend toward assistance with VA benefits and support programs.

The feedback provided by respondents in the community survey can help chart the course for further LSVC activities and support initiatives. The matrix refines the focus of topical issues that the Veterans community indicate our assistance would be of greatest benefit to those that have served in the military, are serving currently, and of equal importance, their families, especially caregivers.

Lake Stevens Veterans Commission (LSVC)

2022 Veterans Community Survey – Principal Themes

Veterans Community Theme Categories	Sample Excerpts of Survey Respondents' Recommendations ¹
	Sample Excerpts of LSVC Engagement and Activities ²
Community Connection	• An annual 5k [run] and fair with military sources. • Veteran's teaching youth marksmanship and civics.
	• Purple Heart City • Business Recognition • Adopt -a- Highway
Benefits and Programs	• VA claims assistance. • Seminars or guest speakers that present on topics such as sleep issues, household budget management, and post-military service education programs. • Access to public transportation and medical care. • Programs to help navigate VA community care.
Support Groups and Social Activities	• Help and support for caregivers of disabled veterans. • Become a Hidden Hero City. • Get together soon, potlucks, get to know the vets in the area.
	• Lake Stevens Veterans Foundation • Coffee Klatch
Financial and Budgetary	• Veteran hiring events. • Active duty to civilian workplace transition or mentorship for veterans joining the current workplace environments and navigating the job hunt, interview, and acceptance/rejection. • Veterans with loan/mortgage debt.
Veterans and Families	• Information campaign on VA education benefits for dependents and survivors known as Chapter 35 benefits. • Activities for children of Veterans, specifically hunting and fishing.

¹ Source: 2022 LSVC Veterans Community Survey

² Source: LSVC Records