

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 7, 2022 - 7:00 PM

REMOTE ACCESS ONLY – VIA ZOOM

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83102973907>

or call in at: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 831 0297 3907

1. **Call to Order** Mayor
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** Mayor
3. **Roll Call**
4. **Public Comment**
5. **Approval of Minutes**
- A. January 3, 2022 Meeting Minutes
6. **Discussion / Action Items**
- A. Finalize Work Plan for Council
- B. Debrief Military Affairs Committee
- C. VSO Update
7. **New Business**
8. **Upcoming Agenda Items**
9. **Adjourn**

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND

Special Needs: *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 3, 2022

VIA Zoom – Remote Access Only

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Debbie Welch, Samara Heydon, Kim Daughtry, Dennis Ives, Kurt Hilt, Kevin McLarnon, and Vern Rasmussen

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Marcus Tageant, Shawn Frederick (Arrived at 7:09 p.m.) and Gayle McCurdy

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 Hilt made a motion, seconded by Commission Heydon, to excuse the absent members. The motion passed 7-0-0-3.

Public Comment: None.

Minutes from December 6, 2021

Commissioner Hilt asked that his name be added as present at the meeting.

MOTION. Commissioner Hilt made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Welch, to approve the minutes as amended. The motion passed 7-0-0-3.

Coffee Klatch – January 15, 2022

The Commission spoke about not having any “in person” Coffee Klatches until at least mid-February or March due to Covid. The Commission also spoke about holding an outside gathering once the weather gets nicer.

2022 Work plan to Council

Commissioner McLarnon reviewed the draft work plan with the Commission.

Note: Commissioner Frederick joined the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

The Commission will hold their joint meeting with the Council on February 22, 2022.

VSO Program Update

The Commission discussed the certification process. More information will be come back at a future meeting.

New Business:

Commissioner Welch will send out some information on a VSO professional development training.

Veterans Commission Regular Meeting January 3, 2022

Agenda Items for Next Meeting

The Commission discussed the following agenda items for next meeting:

- Finalize work plan to Council
- Debrief Military Affairs Committee
- VSO Update

The next meeting date will be February 7, 2022.

Adjourn: It was moved by Commissioner Hilt and seconded by Commissioner McLarnon to adjourn the meeting. On motion the vote carried (7-0-0-3). There being no further business, Chairman Heydon adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Kelly Chelin, City Clerk



LAKE STEVENS VETERANS COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT

Agenda Date: Feb 22, 2022

Subject: Veterans Commission Program Overview

Contact Person/Department: Kelly Chelin / Kevin McLarnon

Budget Impact: N/A

RECOMMENDATION(S)/ACTION REQUESTED OF VETERANS COMMISSION: Review and comment on a 2022 Work Program.

SUMMARY/BACKGROUND:

The Veterans Commission, like other groups, continues to adapt its initiatives and methods in light of COVID-19 and looks forward to a return to conditions supportive of in-person group interactions. The Commission's current work program includes:

- Adopt a Highway
- Emergency Response Planning
- Newsletter
- Coffee Klatch
- Lake Stevens Veterans Foundation
- Veterans Service Office (VSO) Support
- Job Fair
- Purple Heart City
- Business Recognition
- Community Events

The Veterans Commission will continue the mission of advising the City Council concerning the wellbeing of military veterans in the Lake Stevens area. The Commission will evaluate and recommend programs, policies, and practices designed to alleviate veterans' difficulties in meeting basic needs, obtaining housing, employment, and comprehensive mental health assistance.

APPLICABLE CITY POLICIES: LSMC 2.70

BUDGET IMPACT: N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

- Exhibit A: Veterans Commission 2021 Work Program

Initiative	Objective	Status	Completion Target
Facilitate Veteran Engagement. Promote opportunities for resident veterans to pursue civic and community service.			
Adopt-a-Highway (Route 204 west of Marketplace) – Demonstrate veteran community spirit and civic pride in action.			Plan to speak to successful event
Samara & Vern	Engage veterans through participation in anti-litter and highway enhancement campaign intended to promote pride in and ownership in keeping our community and state beautiful.	New item. Roadway cleanup events to be held throughout the year. Initial event - Q3 2021.	Ongoing
Emergency Response Planning - Promote community emergency preparedness utilizing veterans' experiences, knowledge, skills, & abilities.			
Dennis	Participate in effort to establish Lake Stevens Emergency Response programs (e.g. CERT); leverage expertise of the veteran community.	On-hold due to Covid-19.	Pending update
Connect Veterans Needs with Available Resources, Opportunities, and Services. Understand the needs of the resident veteran community and help strengthen the range of available resources and services.			
Newsletter – Maintain a direct communication channel to ensure veterans and interested community members are aware of current events.			
Kevin & Debbie	Provide timely updates regarding Commission efforts, available services, and opportunities to engage the community.	Newsletters available on City's website with distribution via website 'Notify Me' service.	Ongoing
Coffee Klatch – Establish an informal networking channel to understand what we are doing well and where we need to improve.			
Kim	Increase direct engagement with veteran community to better understand current needs and priorities.	Small but successful gatherings. Continue to promote in order to increase reach.	Words ok?
Lake Stevens Veterans Foundation - Establish nonprofit to raise/obtain funds to be used in support of programs that are recommended by the Veterans Commission.			
NA	Foster growth of independent organization to accelerate the realization the Commission goals.	Launch of independent organization complete.	Complete

Initiative	Objective	Status	Completion Target
Veterans Service Office (VSO) Support – Help veterans navigate the sometimes-complex process of receiving the benefits they are entitled to.			
(Open)	Partner with VSO organizations and facilitate space for a local Veterans Service Office to be established in Lake Stevens.	Investigate opportunities to restart services suspended due to Covid-19	Ongoing
Job Fair – Connect local and regional businesses with highly qualified veterans leading to meaningful civilian employment.			
Kim & Dennis	Explore opportunities with local employers and organizations to participate in a Job Fair for Veterans.	New initiative; event to be held in The Mill.	TBD
Partner Network – Develop a network of partner organizations to increase the range of resources and services available to veterans.			
Kevin & Kurt	Establish and maintain partnerships with local civic organizations and providers of services for Veterans.	Re-initiate outreach to local organizations and service providers.	Ongoing New
Increase Community Awareness. Promote public awareness veteran culture and support for veterans’ needs.			
Purple Heart City - Create a visual reminder to those who use the road system that others have paid a high price for our freedom to travel and live in a free society.			
Kevin	Establish Lake Stevens as a Purple Heart City and deploy signs at major ingress points.	Work with Staff to establish a deployment schedule for signs.	TBD
Business Recognition – Highlight the contribution of Veteran-owned and Veteran-friendly businesses serving Lake Stevens residents.			
Kevin	Identify and recognize all Veteran-owned / Veteran-friendly businesses in our community.	Continue to promote via newsletter.	Ongoing
Community Events - Leverage local events in order to increase community awareness, engagement, and support for the range of issues impacting Veterans and the services offered by the Veterans Commission.			
(varies)	Increase awareness of Veterans Commission efforts through participation in community events.	Participation continues to be restricted due to Covid-19.	Ongoing

Discussion item – Lake Stevens War Memorial Concern

Recently, several members of the veteran community have approached the Veterans Commission with concerns in regards to the Lake Stevens War Memorial:

- Certain behaviors during public events conflict with the memorial as a sacred place
- General ongoing maintenance responsibilities such as flag replacement schedules, lowering flags to half-staff, etc.
- Future planning responsibilities – e.g. a 6th service branch has been established