



**City of Milpitas
Veterans Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 5, 2015
5:30 p.m.**

**Milpitas City Hall Committee Room
455 E. Calaveras Blvd.
Milpitas, CA 95035**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** 5:30 p.m.

- II. **FLAG SALUTE:** Chair Weisgerber led the Pledge of Allegiance.

- III. **ROLL CALL**
Present: Denny Weisgerber, Arthur Ebright, Andre Ramones, Allen Thomas, Ed Ackerman

Excused Absence: Dana Arbaugh, Liliana Ramos
Unexcused Absence: None

- IV. **SEATING OF ALTERNATES:** Ed Ackerman

- V. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA: AUGUST 5, 2015**
M/S: Thomas / Ebright
AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

- VI. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: JUNE 3, 2015**
M/S: Ebright / Ackerman
AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

- VII. **PUBLIC FORUM**
Rick Martinez, Milpitas resident, donated certificates for the Car Show raffle. He said that there was not enough seating, especially for veterans, during the Memorial Day event. He suggested for this matter to be given consideration in future events.

Rosanne Constabile, San Jose resident and representative to the Milpitas Green Thumb Garden Club, reported to the Commission that the Garden Club was successful in raising funds going towards the Blue Star Memorial plaque. She said that the Garden Club will be ordering the plaque, and will be coordinating with City staff in installing the plaque for the City's Veterans Day event. She added that Garden Club fundraising efforts for the Blue Star Memorial plaque will continue between now and the Car Show, with proceeds to be turned in to the Commission.

- VIII. **ANNOUNCEMENTS/COORESPONDENCE**
Flags and the Median
Staff Liaison Dale Flunoy, per Commission request, reported back that CalTrans will allow 12-inch flags to be hung up for the upcoming Flag Challenge. The median is Calaveras Boulevard. The allowable length for the small flags is 12 inches from end to end on a stick.

Per discussion, the Commission requested Staff Liaison Flunoy to seek permission from El Torito and Chappelle to hang flags. Commission agreed to continue exploring other possible options.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

1. 3rd Annual Car Show – Chair Weisgerber

Chair Weisgerber led the discussion on the 3rd Annual Car Show and received feedback from the Commissioners. Discussions were made regarding pledges made by various organizations for in-kind donations such as cakes and sandwiches, volunteer commitments, outreach done for potential sponsors / vendors and volunteers, and logistics such as the sound system and public access to a police car courtesy of the Milpitas Police Department. Consensus was made to order dog tags from the same vendor.

Motion to approve all action items on the 3rd Annual Car Show Event Timeline for July and August, order dog tags similar to last year’s car show, and accept the following dates as Special Meetings for the Commission:

- August 26, 5:30 PM
- September 9, 5:30 PM
- September 23, 5:30 PM
- October 7, 5:30 PM (Regular Meeting)
- October 17 (Car Show)

M/S: Ebright / Ackerman

Ayes: All

2. Veteran Commission Membership Advertisement

The Commission continued discussions on doing two mailings to the residents to generate additional membership and awareness of the Veterans Commission and its resources.

The Commission directed the Staff Liaison to check with the Milpitas Post as to whether there is still an outstanding credit owed to the Commission.

Staff Liaison Flunoy informed the Commission that staff is already promoting the Veterans Commission via Facebook, the City’s website, and commercial spots on Channel 26. Discussions were made to reach out to Channel 26 to do a report highlighting the Veterans Commission, so that viewers will have an idea

Discussion and eventually consensus had been made to use the water bill envelopes, a quarter-page ad with the Milpitas Post, and any available means of advertising. Commission funds will be allocated to pay for the envelopes and the newspaper ad.

Motion to authorize and proceed with placing Veterans Commission advertising on the water bill envelopes and the Milpitas Post.

M/S: Ackerman/Thomas

Ayes: All

NEW BUSINESS

1. Home First (formerly known as EHC Lifebuilders)

Rebecca Davis, Kelly Sumner, Pauline Viotti, and Jose Toledo each did a brief presentation regarding the various programs available at Home First such as 90-day intensive case management emergency shelter program, homeless intervention, low-cost housing and financing, and employment search services.

Home First reached out to the Veterans Commission in hopes to have another avenue of

partnership and outreach in Milpitas so that they could help more veterans. Aside from offering itself as a resource for the Veterans Commission and Milpitas veterans in need, Home First also suggested for the Veterans Commission to partner up with the Planning Commission for wider outreach.

Home First also requested to have a vendor table during the upcoming Car Show. Consensus was reached for Commission and City staff to provide one free table to Home First.

Motion for the Commission to donate one free vendor table to Home First during the upcoming Veterans Car Show.

M/S: Ackerman / Ramones

Ayes: All

2. “Honor and Remember” Flag

The Commission received, reviewed, and discussed the materials received regarding the Honor and Remember Flag organization.

Staff recommended for the Commission to have the Honor and Remember Flag brochures and literature available for distribution in their events, which would give Milpitas residents the opportunity to honor a loved one who was killed in action while serving as a soldier.

Discussion was made to invite the organization to have a vendor table during the upcoming Car Show. It was suggested for the organization to bring a replica or sample of the flag to give everyone an idea on what the flag would look like.

After the organization processes orders and the flags become available, the organization will arrange for a presentation ceremony to properly present the flags to the families who ordered them.

Motion to support the Honor and Remember flag by having literature on the Veterans Commission information table at events as a resource for veterans and their families.

M/S: Thomas / Ramones

Ayes: All

Chair Weisgerber shared information with the Commission regarding a brochure received from California State Honor Guard. The brochure provides information for families of veterans regarding flag presentations, funeral services, and national cemetery internment. Brochures will be made available during Commission events.

XII. LIAISON REPORT

1. **City Council:** None. Councilmember Giordano absent.
2. **Staff Reports:** Staff Liaison Flunoy announced that the City Clerk’s office is still accepting applications for the Veterans Commission.

X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Flag Challenge
- Veterans Day Program 2015
- Memorial Day Program 2016
- Government Ordinance and Brown Act review

XIII. NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, October 7, 2015, at 5:30 p.m.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT – Chair Weisgerber adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

The foregoing minutes were approved by the Milpitas City Council on October 7, 2015.

Pam Caronongan
Milpitas Deputy City Clerk