



## Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee

---

January 15, 2021 – 10:00 AM  
Virtual Meeting on Microsoft Teams  
Live Streamed via City's website:  
<http://www.elpasotexas.gov/videos>  
Television on City15

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofelpasotx/videos>

### MINUTES

#### Members Present

Lance Lehr  
Bruce Biegel  
Dean Sanders  
Don Parrott  
Justin Rotti  
Hope Jackson  
Laura Butler

#### Members Absent

Reginald Daniel

#### Unfilled Positions

District 1

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting Called to Order at 10:06 AM.
2. **Roll Call:** *Quorum*.
3. **Discussion and Action: Annual election of VAAC Officers. Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary.**

**ACTION:** Laura Butler voted in unanimously as Secretary. Bruce Biegel voted in unanimously as Vice-Chairman, and Dean Sanders voted in unanimously as Chairman.

4. **Citizen Comment Period: (individuals limited to 3 minutes; no specific action may be taken).** Alma Aranda briefed about the Microsoft learning pathways and would like to have a presentation to the VAAC. Alma will attempt to brief during the February meeting.
5. **Community Update: Presentation of the "Visit El Paso" App – Destination El Paso.** Nora Rose of the El Paso Chamber of Commerce presented the Visit El Paso App. This App is to promote the quality of life for the community of El Paso. The military tab is focused on Soldiers and their families at Ft. Bliss. It is also designed to help Veterans find resources in employment and education.

**6. Receive an Update on the Veterans Permanent Supportive Housing Program – Ben Miranda of Endeavors.** Endeavors is pending to receive the contract by the end of the month of January. Endeavors has already picked two case managers with great experience and roots in El Paso to facilitate the program. Endeavors has pre-identified Veterans to receive assistance through the program.

**7. Receive an Update from City HR on Veteran Employment – Cecy Mungaray.** Job posting language “must have” for minimum requirements has been removed. Postings now just have the minimum qualifications. New tracking system shows total number of Veterans Eligible and total number of Veterans Hired. Veterans are highlighted on the job eligible lists for hiring managers to easily identify who are Veterans. Hiring managers receive the entire eligible list and decide how many people they would like to interview. The list of how many Veterans were eligible, interviewed and hired will be sent to the Chief Military Officer monthly. Cecy mentioned to have any Veteran interested in obtaining employment at the City to please send her their resume and allow her to help them with the application process.

**8. Discussion and Action to approve minutes of: November 15, 2020. – Approved**

**9. Discussion and Action: Schedule Special Meeting for the preparation for the Semi-Annual Brief to Council. – Sub-committees will meet virtually on January 22<sup>nd</sup> 10 AM.**

**10. Discussion and Action: Sub-Committee Chairs update on assigned focus areas. Focus on Discussion items for Council. – Will be addressed at the Special Meeting on January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10 AM.**

Bruce Biegel – Employment

Hope Jackson – Homelessness

Lance Lehr – Marketing and Outreach

**11. El Paso County Veterans Assistance Program Manager Update – Carl Dwyer not available to brief.**

**12. Division of Veteran and Military Affairs Update – February 19<sup>th</sup>** will be a vote to amend the resolution to allow the current sitting VAAC members to four-year terms. The latest resolution stated that members would serve four-year terms but did not address to automatically extend the current sitting members for a full four years. IGSA for A&E services on Ft. Bliss should be completed within 6 months. The Texas NG is supporting the El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank. Mike Amaral will begin providing a health care update to the VAAC at the next meeting.

**13. Announcements –** The Point in Time Survey for El Paso Homeless conducted by the Continuum of Care will conduct their annual survey of the homeless. Participants will be trained. American Legion Statewide Career Fair will be on February 9. The Zaragoza Rotary Club is conducting a clothing drive at the Delta Center. Please contact Justin Rotti.

**14. Next VAAC Meeting – February 19, 2021, 10:00 AM Virtual Meeting online.**

**15. Adjourn – 11:37 AM**

**NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC:**

*The Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee of the City of El Paso may retire into EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to Section 3.5A of the El Paso City Charter and the Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Subchapter D, to discuss any of the following: (The items listed below are matters of the sort routinely discussed in Executive Session, but the Veterans Affairs Advisory Community of the City of El Paso may move to Executive Session any of the items on this agenda, consistent with the terms of the Open Meeting Act.) The Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee will return to open session to take any final action and may also, at any time during the meeting, bring forward items for public discussion, as appropriate.*

*Section 551.071 CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY*

*Section 551.072 DELIBERATIONS REGARDING REAL PROPERTY*

*Section 551.073 DELIBERATION REGARDING PROSPECTIVE GIFTS*

*Section 551.074 PERSONNEL MATTERS*

*Section 551.076 DELIBERATION REGARDING SECURITY DEVICES*

*Section 551.087 DELIBERATION REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT*

**NEGOTIATIONS**

*Sign Language interpreters will be provided for this meeting upon request. Requests must be made to the Community Development department at phone number 915-212-1654 a minimum of 48 hours prior to the date and time of the meeting. Copies of these Minutes will be provided in Braille, large print or audiotape upon request. Requests must be made a minimum of 48 hours prior to the date and time of the meeting.*

**POSTED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_ AT \_\_\_\_\_ BY PAUL ALBRIGHT.**