



MINUTES

Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee

February 1, 2016 – 11:00 am
300 N. Campbell – CITY 1 in City Council Chambers

Committee Members Present

Aldina Rosales
David Nevarez
Bill Sparks
Tommy Loyd
Lynn Westbrook
Brian Kennedy
Michael Flores (late arrival)
Daisy Ramos

Members Not Present

Siria Rocha
Joe Fierro

Staff and others present

See attached sign in sheet

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 11:00 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call & Discussion and Action on Committee absences

Motion made and passed to approve absences.

4. Citizen Comment Period (limited to 3 minutes; no specific action may be taken)

None.

5. Discussion and Action to approve minutes of January 13, 2016

Motion made and passed to approve minutes.

6. Discussion and Action to approve meeting schedule for 2016

Motion made and passed to approve the meeting schedule with the condition that the committee could call a meeting before or after a scheduled date.

7. Discussion and Action: Possible Policy Recommendations to address Transportation Issues for Veterans

Motion made and passed to submit the letter with the committees' suggestions for City Council review.

8. Discussion and Action: Identification of Housing Issues for Veterans and Possible

Recommendations to address housing Issues for Veterans

A. El Paso Coalition for the Homeless review of Point in Time homeless survey data and policy considerations recommendations

Camille Castillo from the Homeless Coalition updates the committee on the outcome of the Point in Time Survey done in 2015 and advises them the numbers for the first 2016 survey have not been finalized but does not expect for the numbers to be as high as last year.

B. Fair Housing Issues for Veterans in private rentals

Camille Castillo elaborates on barriers the coalition faces when trying to accommodate veterans in rental properties. There is a lack of landlords in El Paso who know of agencies that can provide assistance. They might be reluctant to rent to veterans as some are not established in a job or they might have mental health issues. There seems to be enough federal dollars to assist in rapid rehousing veterans but it is the consensus of the coalition and the committee that El Paso should have transitional living facilities to house them and ensure veterans receive proper case management to avoid a high rate of recidivism.

The committee requests for the Homeless Coalition to provide a list of the most critical barriers so they can add to the quarterly report that will be submitted to city council.

POWER OUTAGE PREVENTED THE MEETING FROM CONTINUING SO THE 3 ITEMS BELOW WERE NOT DISCUSSED

9. Discussion and Action: Identification of Employment Issues for Veterans

A. City of El Paso information on: Number of Veterans Employed by City and Hiring Policy for Veterans

10. Update on required training for Committee members

11. Discussion: Committee members report on upcoming Veteran events in the community

12. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Chair

Secretary

Date

Date