



CITY CLERK DEPT
2021 JUL 1 AM 11:43

Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee

February 19, 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
Reginald Daniel

Members Absent

None

Unfilled Positions

District 1

1. **Call to Order.** Meeting Called to Order at 10:01 AM
2. **Roll Call.** Quorum
3. **Discussion and Action to Approve Minutes of January 15, 2021.** Approved
4. **Citizen Comment Period (individuals limited to 3 minutes; no specific action may be taken).** Darrell Mond of the El Paso Veterans and Riders Association built a mock tank. They would like to provide it for any event that will support Veteran wellness in the City. Dean Sanders proposed that the EPVRA approach the Travis Manion Foundation. EPVRA mentioned they are approaching schools in the local area.
5. **Community Update: Presentation: Employment Readiness Specialist for ACS Employment Services – Roman Galiki.** Roman Galiki had technical issues and was not able to present

Presentation: Microsoft Learning Pathways – Alma Aranda and JJ Childress. JJ Childress presented Microsoft Learn and the platform GitHub for a pathway to receive IT certificates and

training. People can begin registering for exams on LinkedIn and GitHub. JJ Childress will provide a flyer with more information. Workforce Solutions can provide resources to help with the pathways skills.

6. Receive an Update on the Veterans Permanent Supportive Housing Program – Ben Miranda of Endeavors. Two Case Managers began onboarding Veterans into the program. Eight Veterans have been identified. Potential Landlords have been identified and have said yes they will work with Endeavors for housing. The City provided two contracts (Home and CBDG) on February 8. Contract negotiations continue but nothing stops Endeavors from executing the program today. Endeavors is looking for furniture for the Veterans.

7. Discussion and Action: Vote to amend the VAAC resolution dated November 7th, 2020 to include 4-year terms for sitting VAAC representatives. Approved

8. Discussion and Action: Subcommittee Chairs update on assigned focus areas. Focus on Discussion items for Council.

Bruce Biegel – Employment. Bruce Biegel presented the slides that will be provided to council. Key points include:

- We Hire Vets continues to be awarded but percentages are dropping.
- HR has done great work to find methods to recruit Veterans into the workforce.
- Must work on skills vs. education for employment.
- Add MOS Codes for Job Postings and educate hiring managers on the benefits of hiring Veterans and Military Spouses. Would like to use El Paso SHRM to present training.

Hope Jackson – Homelessness. Hope Jackson rejected the staff's proposed slide for the brief to Council. The current VAAC Homeless Sub-Committee will be utilized. Discussion continued the legality on the VAAC having oversight on the Veterans PSH program. Language was changed to provide recommendations for improvement in lieu of oversight. Further discussion was taken on the appropriate recommendations the committee should present to council. City staff was involved in the discussion to include Assistant City Attorney Josette Flores, Community and Human and Development Director and Chief Resiliency Officer Nicole Ferrini, and Strategic Communication Director Laura Cruz-Acosta. The VAAC Homeless Sub-Committee will meet on Monday February 22nd with CD to finalize the presentation.

Lance Lehr – Marketing and Outreach. Lance Lehr signed off due to time constraints. Slides to council were shown and will be finalized on Monday. Changes are expected to be minimal.

9. El Paso VA Health Care Clinic Update – Mike Amaral, Director. Mike Amaral was not able to brief to do the long discussions on the brief to council. In the future all guest speakers will present prior to Committee internal business.

10. El Paso County Veterans Assistance Program Manager Update. Carl Dwyer was not able to brief due to the time taken on discussions. Chief Military Officer Provided the following information:

- Judge Samienago, the County Judge, is looking for a new Veteran Advisor to sit the on the County Veterans Advisory Board.
- The Veterans Assistance Office is still providing assistance.
- The County is looking for a VA Work Study.

- Crisis Intercept Mapping is an ongoing training provided by the County. Please reach out to the Veterans Assistance office for more information.
- 11. **Division of Veteran and Military Affairs Update: No Update**
- 12. **Announcements (Limited to Veteran and Military Events pertinent to the El Paso Region). No Announcements**
- 13. **Next VAAC Meeting: March 19, 2021, 10:00 AM Virtual Meeting online.**
- 14. **Adjourn. Adjourned at 12:09 PM.**

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.