



Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee

February 21st, 2020 – 10:00 am
300 N. Campbell – CITY 1, Main Room

MINUTES

Members Present

Bruce Biegel
Andrea Hutchins
Hope Jackson
Reginald Daniel
Dean Sanders
Don Parrott

Members Absent

Lance Lehr

Unfilled Positions

District 5
District 7

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting Called to Order at 10:02 am.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Roll Call:** *Quorum*.

4. **Citizen Comment Period:** NAMI El Paso briefed about NAMI Home Front, an educational course that is 6 weeks in length to teach about mental health and to help Veterans assimilate into society. Course will be held in April.

5. **Community Updates:** Honor Flight of Southern New Mexico and El Paso - Dennis Prickett

Honor Flight is a Non-Profit organization that provides WWII, Vietnam, and Korean War Veterans a no cost flight to Washington DC to view war memorials and have the welcome home that they have never experienced before. Honor flight needs help reaching individuals whom have served that are interested in the flight. They also need help with volunteer "Guardians" which can accompany Vets on the trip (at Cost). They also need help with sponsorship. Flights cost in excess of \$30,000 per flight for 30 Veterans. There are two Flights per year.

Discussion: The City of El Paso would like to sponsor up to \$10,000 each year for flights. This will be included in the upcoming budget requests. Need to provide the link for Honor flight

video to all Committee members. Next Flight is April 30 – May 2. Need to leverage community support for a large welcome home at the Airport. Contact Travis Manion Foundation to connect those that have taken the Honor Flight to talk with schoolchildren during the Character Does Matter curriculum.

6. Discussion and Action to approve minutes of January 17, 2020: Minutes approved.

7. Discussion and Action on absent or Show VAAC Members: None absent.

8. Discussion and Action: Assign VAAC Sub-committees for new members.

Don Parrott District 3 assigned to Employment and Homelessness.

9. Discussion and Action: Recap presentation to Council February 3 2020.

Discussion: Reviewed the next step for implementation of the 20% Veteran Interview rule and the strategy for a veteran employment program.

Request the City HR to be a part of the Ft. Bliss Hiring Expo in May as a panel member or a part of the breakout session.

10. Discussion and Action: Develop Strategy for brief to Council June 2020

Discussion: Recommendation to brief council on June 9 or June 23. Discussion to have presentation developed and ready to brief on May 15th during the regular monthly meeting of the Committee. Each Subcommittee will find dates to meet outside the regular schedule to develop their data for presentation.

ACTION: Brief to City Council will be on June 9, 2020. Unanimous decision. VAAC will have the presentation prepared and ready to brief on May 15, 2020 during the regularly scheduled meeting.

Camille Castillo from the El Paso Coalition for the Homeless spoke about the collaborative efforts of the CoH and other key partners to minimize homelessness in El Paso and invited the VAAC to join them every Friday at 1:30 at the ELP CoH to observe the By Name list process.

CSM Robert Cobb 1AD Command Sergeant Major spoke. Veterans are eligible to go to the FT. Bliss Soldier for Life program and enroll in the Career skill Program if they are GI Bill eligible.

11. Discussion and Action: Update from El Paso County Veterans Advisory Board.

Bruce Biegel spoke about increasing respondents for the El Paso Veterans Needs Assessment

12. Veterans and Military Affairs Update:

- Spoke about the importance of Intergovernmental Support Agreements (IGSA).
- Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant submitted Feb 28th.
- Right Sizing of the Army Medical Treatment Facilities. Provided a detailed list of who was affected and how our community will be minimally effected as of now.
- Veteran Town Hall on February 29th and March 7th.
- City of El Paso is leading the effort on Our Community Salutes. A program to recognize those who have made the commitment to join the Military.

15. Announcements: Endeavors educational seminar on Financial Literacy on March 24th. US Department of V.A. March 4th Veteran Town Hall.

16. Next VAAC Meeting: March 20th, 2020 10:00 am City Hall, Main room 2nd Floor.

17. Adjourn: 11:09 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.