



CITY CLERK DEPT
2019 MAY 22 AM 10:44

Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee

March 18, 2019 – 11:00 am
300 N. Campbell – CITY 1, Council Chambers

MINUTES

Members Present

Lance Lehr
Joe Fierro
Donald Crawford
Ed Fleming
Bill Sparks
Bruce Biegel

Members Absent

Efren Montelongo
Lynn Westbrook
Todd Miller
Ian Hanna

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting Called to Order at 11:00 am.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call:** *Quorum*
4. **Citizen Comment Period:** None
5. **Community Updates:** City Public Information Office Laura Cruz Acosta Strategic Communications Director
 - Discussion on how the public affairs office can assist the VAAC with messaging for the city. Identified Soraya Ayub as the lead public affairs staff responsible for Military Affairs strategic communications.
 - Discussed by Laura Cruz Acosta to add FT. Bliss to the *El Paso City Reborn* video. Add Military Affairs initiatives to the CM quarterly snapshot. Seconded by Lance Lehr
 - Discussion: Laura Cruz Acosta- Rebrand the El Paso Military and Veteran affairs Facebook page. Add to the El Paso Visitors website and Day-Cation website How to visit FT. Bliss. No purview over TXDOT signage.

- Action: Have the R & R report and Public Affairs presentation sent to VAAC Members.
- Discussion: Bill Sparks- when rebranding the City Website do not lose the Veteran Resources tab.
- Discussion: All- to acquire a sign from TXDOT or purchased from the city along highways to display FT. Bliss Home of Americas Tank Division.
- Discussion: Bill Sparks- to add a city employee to the Military Affairs section to assist with Military and Veteran strategic messaging.
- Discussion: Cary Westin- to tie in Veteran marketing efforts to District Meetings and District newsletters. Get information out to the community through City Council Representatives.

City Human Resources Office: Linda Thomas

- Presented brief recruiting practices through Bradley Morris / UTEP and FT. Bliss. Stated that 861 City Employees roughly 12% are Veterans. Briefed the Veteran Point System
- Linda Thomas stated that the HR department will form a committee to address a strategy to comply with state requirements of 20% those candidates interviewed seeking a specific job will be Veterans.
- Discussion: Lance Lehr, Bruce Beigel, Linda Thomas and Cary Westin- need a strategy to include language that incorporates the 20% rule.
- Discussion: Lance Lehr- how to capitalize on the soft skills of Veterans into the Hiring process. Bill Sparks requested that testing should be done first and screening later.
- Discussion: Linda- need to reach out to transitioning Soldiers earlier in the transitioning process. HR will set up a class to teach soldiers how to navigate the online application process and properly interview for city job opportunities. Bruce Beigel will work to get HR a break out room at the FT. Bliss Summit for this class.
- Discussion: Ed Fleming- HR should attend other universities to include Park University for recruitment purposes. Linda Thomas agreed that HR will attend if invited.

6. Discussion and Action to approve minutes of February 25th 2019: Minutes approved.

7. Discussion and Action on Absent or Show VAAC Members: Motion and Second to approve Excused Absences from February 25th, 2019 –Efren Montelongo, Lance Lehr, Ian Hanna.

- Action: Rollin Heassler from El Paso County can attend in Efren Montelongo's absence.

8. Discussion and Action: Report to City Council – May 2019.

- Action: Hold a special Meeting on April 23rd, 1:00pm El Paso Chamber of Commerce in order to prepare agenda items for City Council update scheduled for May 28th.

9. Discussion and Action on Voting in of Chairman, Vice Chair, Secretary: Voted in open forum by show of hands unanimous decision for Lance Lehr as Chairman. Voted in open forum

by show of Hands for Ed Fleming as Vice Chair – 1 vote. Bruce Biegel -4 votes. Joe Fierro chose not to vote. Bruce Biegel motioned and seconded to perform duties as Vice-Chairman.

10. Military Affairs Update:

- Military Affairs LNO will travel to Atlanta for the Built for Zero Conference.
- March 21st, 2019 press release for The Bridge.

11. Discussion and Action: Table for next meeting.

12 Discussion and Action on Sub-Committees:

- Discussion on Veteran Homelessness from Bill Sparks. Need City Leadership to leverage communication with the Hotel / Motel Association in order to provide Hotel Vouchers to homeless in times of inclement weather or other emergency shelter criteria.
- Discussion by Bill Sparks on the effort of the Coalition to reduce the number of homeless with the By-Name list.

12. Discussion and Action on New Agenda Items: none

13. Announcements: Bruce Biegel announced Ft. Bliss Transition Summit 15-16 May 2019., Hiring fair March 21st, and the Federal, State application workshop March 19th. Dwayne Williams announced the Armed forces Chamber Meeting April 4th, the AUSA Banquet April 25th. Bill Sparks announced that the city Library is helping Entrepreneur free of charge.

14. Next VAAC Meeting: April 20th, 2019 11:00 am City Council Chambers

15. Adjourn

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 10TH DAY OF MAY AT 1000 AM BY PAUL ALBRIGHT.