



Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee

March 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 (Late)

Tephania Hopper

Dean Sanders

Bruce Biegel (Late)

Don Parrott

Justin Rotti

Hope Jackson (Late)

Laura Butler

Reginald Daniel (Late)

Members Absent

None

Unfilled Positions

None

1. **Call to Order.** Meeting Called to Order at 10:02 AM MDT.
2. **Roll Call.** Quorum. 5 of 9 present for the start of the meeting.
3. **Discussion and Action to Approve Minutes of February 19, 2021.** Approved.
4. **Citizen Comment Period (individuals limited to 3 minutes; no specific action may be taken).** No citizen comments.
5. **El Paso VA Health Care Clinic Update.** Mike Amaral, Director. No update during this time as Mr. Amaral was not present.
6. **El Paso County Veterans Assistance Program Manager Update.** Carl Dwyer, El Paso County Service Officer. March 29: National Vietnam War Veterans Day. The County sponsored a resolution that day for 30 Vietnam Veterans to receive a service pin. The event will be at the Ascarate Park Pavilion at 3:30 PM. El Paso County with SAMHSA is offering four modules of training that assist in the development of a crisis intercept map to help reduce

veteran suicides in the community. Module 2 is currently being given with Module 3 and 4 being completed by early June. Already creating actionable programs such as Haircuts for Homeless (March 25 & 29) being done with a veteran business owner of T-Sharp Mobile Hair Salon. May 1, the VA and El Paso County Hidden Heroes Caregiver Program will be having a drive thru resource fair at Endeavors.

7. Receive an Update on the Veterans Permanent Supportive Housing Program.

Benjamin Miranda of Endeavors was unavailable to brief. Paul Albright read to the VAAC for Mr. Miranda. The program will be renamed as the El Paso Veterans Tennant-based Rental Assistance Program. 5 Veterans are currently housed with one more being added on March 26. Case managers are working with the Veterans Treatment Court and IDing others for the program while working from the Opportunity Center.

8. Community Update: Presentation: Employment Readiness Specialist for ACS

Employment Services – Roman Galiki. Programs Available: Emergency Relief, Employment Readiness, Training and Workshops, Family Advocacy, Financial Readiness, Relocation Readiness, and Survivor Outreach. Process: Orientation, Addition to the Employment Distribution List, Workshop Registration (currently virtual), and one- on-one career coaching appointments. Services: Career Coaching, Resumes Review, Federal Hiring Assistance, Labor Market Information, Resources, and Referral Services. Regular Employer Showcases and Hiring Events. Opportunity Partnerships: CPAC, Army Ed Center, SFL-TAP, Woman's Business Border Center, TVC, HOH, SECO, MSEP, and local employers. Retirees, military spouses, active duty and DOD ID card holders are eligible for services. Email or call Mr. Galiki as a business wanting to get on distribution list. There is a vetting process.

9. Discussion and Action: Assign District 1 Committee Member to Sub-Committees.

Tephane Hopper will be joining the Marketing Subcommittee. Motion approved and passed. Dean Sanders asked if she would consider being a part of the Homeless Subcommittee. Nicole Ferrini (City of El Paso) seconded that opinion especially in terms of her assisting with the marketing component. Ms. Hopper asked for a month to think about it.

10. Discussion: Understanding the details within the VAAC Resolution. Highlighted new City Attorney working with VAAC: Roberta Brito. Mr. Albright clarified the question and answer about term lengths if being appointed after a resignation: terms are fixed. When reviewing and making changes, committees need to keep similar rules because there are 39 boards the City wants to keep aligned. Since the Resolution trumps the Bylaws, need to make sure there is consistency between Resolution and Bylaws and add more detailed language. Revisit section 2B: Terms. Mr. Albright recommends sending in corrections prior to April 16 meeting.

11. Discussion: Understanding the details within the VAAC Bylaws. Article III Section 2: notate 5+ for quorum. Article III Section 2 & 3: Discussed changing to 72 hours. Article III Section 6: Discussed mentioning yearly ethics training in the section. Article IV Section Sec 2: Discussed moving all the officer duties to the Resolution as well. Changes need to be made to Secretary to determine what the Secretary can/should and cannot/should not do. The VAAC is

the only City committee with a Secretary. Mr. Albright clarified the fact that the VAAC cannot have any communication that constitute a quorum, including emails. Emails need to go through Mr. Albright so he can disseminate the communications throughout the committee. All changes need to be made at once to the Resolution and Bylaws for the April 16 meeting so the VAAC can get back to normal business by voting on them then.

12. Discussion and Action: Developing a VAAC Strategic Plan. The Subcommittee strategic plans should align and be supportive to the Division of Military and Veteran Affairs and the City of El Paso. Motion and approval to add this as a VAAC objective.

13. Division of Veteran and Military Affairs Update. Paul Albright shared recent Sun City Bliss video entry. This can be found on the City of El Paso website in the Veteran Resources section.

14. Announcements (Limited to Veteran and Military Events pertinent to the El Paso Region). Mike Amaral (VA) was able to join for the announcements. Every other Thursday, there are VA Telephonic Town Halls. March 19 & 20: 50 and older walk-in for COVID-19 Moderna vaccine and will leave with 2nd dose appointment. J&J vaccine saved for rural areas. After this, call to schedule just like a normal appointment. VA opening back to 75%, but please try virtual appointments. Justin Rotti added that teleconferencing appts with VA are great and easy and doing follow ups in person. Lance Lehr also throwing in support with VA doing great work. 12,000 doses administered by end of day March 19. 3200 veterans in community, 900 through Beaumont, and 400 staff of VA. If vaccinated outside of VA, please bring in card to add to file to be counted as vaccinated veteran. Bruce Biegel: SFL-TAP, opening full service beginning of April with some in-person options.

15. Next VAAC Meeting: April 16, 2021, 10:00 AM MDT Virtual Meeting online.

16. Adjourn. Adjourned at 11:52 AM MDT.

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 Committee 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 17 DAY OF May AT 1140  BY PAUL ALBRIGHT.