



CITY CLERK DEPT  
2021 JUL 1 AM 11:42

## Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee

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April 17th, 2020 – 10:00 am  
300 N. Campbell – CITY 1, Main Room

### MINUTES

#### Members Present

Lance Lehr  
Bruce Biegel  
Andrea Hutchins  
Reginald Daniel  
Dean Sanders  
Don Parrott  
Justin Rotti  
Laura Butler

#### Members Absent

Hope Jackson

#### Unfilled Positions

none

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting Called to Order at 10:01 am.

2. **Roll Call:** *Quorum*.

3. **Citizen Comment Period:** Darrell Mond of the El Paso Veterans Riders Association briefed about the EPVRA Annual Food Drive. The EPVRA is collecting food and distributing to those Veterans and those over 65 in need that cannot go on their own to food banks and distribution centers during this crisis. EPVRA can be reached at [epvra@yahoo.com](mailto:epvra@yahoo.com) or 915 790-3930

#### 4. **Community Updates:**

- Soraya Ayub City of El Paso PAO presented a new show for our Military and Veteran Community called Sun City Bliss. The video can be viewed on the City of El Paso Veteran resource page at [www.elpasotexas.gov/veteranresources](http://www.elpasotexas.gov/veteranresources)

Discussion: Media platforms- It will be shared on FT. Bliss Social media sites as well as the City monitors and other city partners.

Shorten the Video. 5 minutes max and expand to Veterans.

- Veteran Homelessness update from El Paso Coalition for the Homeless Carol Bohle. Proposed a program for a Homeless Veteran Permanent Supportive Program Proposal. This rental assistance proposal was developed with the local Veteran Affairs assistance for supportive housing (VASH). It includes funding for 9 families and 15 individuals and includes full time case management. Total cost is \$300K.

Discussion: Case management to client care must be no lower than 1 to 15. This must be a collective effort from the community and not a city funded project due to revenue loss due to COVID-19. We must be vigilant in applying for Grant funding to fund this project.

**5. Discussion and Action to approve minutes of February 21st, 2020:** Minutes approved.

**6. Discussion and Action on absent or Show VAAC Members:** Lance Lehr excused.

**7. Discussion and Action: Recap strategy for brief to Council June 2020**

- Discussion- Sub-Committees will develop a strategy for presentation to council. May 1<sup>st</sup> will be the date to submit a strategy. Presentation for sub committees will be on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**8. Discussion and Action:** Sub Committee Chairs required to update on assigned focus areas each meeting.

- Action: Sub Committee Chairs will brief updates at each monthly Committee meeting.

**9. Discussion and Action: Present to Council to pass a Resolution to reestablish the VAAC. The VAAC will sunset December 31st, 2020.**

- Discussion- The committee wishes to extend the resolution with changes and submit to Council. Resolution will be extended and changes will be incorporated.

**10. Discussion and Action: Develop a timeline to rewrite the existing VAAC By-Laws.**

- Discussion- Review the by-laws and request changes through email to the Chief Military officer. For example, place a timeline for representatives to fill a vacancy in a specific amount of time.

**11. Update from El Paso County Veterans Advisory Board.**

- New County Veterans Assistance Program Manager Cary Dwyer wants to focus on connection, communication, and collaboration. They are working hard on Social media and new programs to connect the community.

**12. Veterans and Military Affairs Update:**

- DEAG from Texas Military preparedness Commission was approved for the expansion of the KBH Desalination plant.
- Bridge is on hold due to stay safe work at home orders.
- IGSA talks continue.
- Provided a grant from the DVMA to Veterans Non-Profit and the El Paso Veterans Riders association.

- Worked with the El Paso Chamber and managed to get a \$60K grant from the El Paso Community Foundation to the USO for Soldiers at Ft. Bliss under quarantine.

**13. Announcements:** Bruce Biegel -Workforce Boarderplex solutions can be reached at boarderplexjobs.com 915 877-2600. Anyone who is in need should contact them.

Justin Rotti- April 24<sup>th</sup> Veterans Needs Assessments initial findings will be presented. Due to COVID an emergency Homelessness shelter was opened named the Delta Haven. Contact Justin if a tour is needed. Veterans are being captured on the intake system HIMS.

Laura Butler- Onward to opportunity Program is still up and running for Veterans and Spouses in a virtual setting.

Mike Amaral, Director El Paso VA- COVID updates from the VA are ongoing and a Veteran can expect a phone call.

**14. Next VAAC Meeting:** May 15, 2020 10:00 am City Hall, Main room 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor.

**15. Adjourn:** 11:19 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.**