



CITY CLERK DEPT
2019 MAY 22 AM 10:44

Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee

April 22, 2019 – 11:00 am
300 N. Campbell – CITY 1, Council Chambers

MINUTES

Members Present

Lance Lehr
Lynn Westbrook
Ed Fleming
Bill Sparks
Bruce Biegel
Ian Hanna

Members Absent

Efren Montelongo
Joe Fierro
Donald Crawford
Todd Miller

1. Call to Order: Meeting Called to Order at 11:00 am. Motion made by Lance Lehr to recess 15 minutes until Quorum is achieved. Bill Sparks and Ian Hanna seconded. Meeting commenced at 11:15 as quorum was achieved.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call: *Quorum*

4. Citizen Comment Period: Darrell Monds President EPVRA presented the El Paso Veteran Riders Association (EPVRA) annual food drive.

- Discussion from Lance Lehr on Bin Placement and City Website marketing support from Bill Sparks. Nicole Discussed involvement through the Retired Senior Volunteers as a part of Community and Human Development

5. Community Updates: Military Affairs Fellow Paul Albright presented Ft. Bliss Overview Brief.

- Discussion from Lance Lehr, Bill Sparks and Nicole Ferrini on the addition of Direct and Indirect Economic impact from Ft. Bliss on El Paso.
- Discussion on Ft. Bliss Desalination Plant from Ian Hanna. Plant is innovative technology and has international attention.

- Discussion from Lance Lehr to have the brief presented to city representatives.

6. Discussion and Action to approve minutes of March 18th 2019: Minutes not available. Will take action next meeting May 20th 2019.

7. Discussion and Action on Absent or Show VAAC Members: Motion and Second to approve Excused Absences from March 18th –Efren Montelongo, Lynn Westbrook, Todd Miller, Ian Hanna.

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

- Discussion to hold a special Meeting on April 23rd in order to prepare agenda items for City Council update scheduled for May 28th.
- Discussion on agenda items from Bruce Biegel - Employment rates, We Hire Vets Recognition from TWC, TVC, HR points system and how it affect the 20% veteran interview incentive, and how veterans preference tie into the Direct Hire program.
- Discussion from Bill Sparks on Employment Veteran Identification process. DD-214 vs VA ID Card.
- Discussion from Bill Sparks on the possibility of HR accepting Military experience as a substitute for specific job requirements as long as it is not required as a state or federal requirement.

9. Discussion and Action on Voting in of Secretary: No member volunteered.

10. Military Affairs Update:

- Discussion from Nicole Ferrini on the revamp and restructure of the Military Affairs Positon within the City.
- Discussion by Nicole Ferrini on expanding The Bridge fellowship to include Community of Excellence partners such as EPISD and EP County as well as Private sector industries. Discussion to open fellowship beyond the rank of SGM.
- Discussion from Paul Albright on Quarterly meetings to synchronize Veteran Support organizations utilizing city-convening power.
- Discussion from Paul Albright on formally recognizing Veterans for Combat Action as a banquet, luncheon, or other ceremony.

11. Discussion and Action:

- Homeless Initiative: Tabled for April 23rd meeting
- Employment: Discussion from Bill Sparks on the possibility of the city removing licensing and certification fees for new veteran business owners.
- Marketing / Community Outreach: Discussion from Bill Sparks to identify City Outreach to military and veteran recognition programs: Free day at the zoo, Free Sun Metro rides for children of deployed service members, Free Library cards.

12. Discussion and Action on New Agenda Items: none

13. Announcements: Bruce Biegel announced Ft. Bliss Transition Summit 15-16 May 2019. Ian Hanna announced the Chief Justice 5th District Court of Appeals visit to El Paso and Ft. Bliss the first week of May. Bill Sparks Announced the VBA breakfast 23 May 8:00am EPCC administrative offices to recognize fallen Soldiers and Veterans from 2019.

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

15. Adjourn: 12:13pm

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.