



## Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee

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June 6, 2016 – 11:00 am  
300 N. Campbell – CITY 1  
City Council Chambers

### MINUTES

#### Members Present

David Nevarez  
Bill Sparks  
Tommy Loyd  
Daisy Ramos  
Siria Rocha  
Joe Fierro  
Brian Kennedy

#### Late Arrivals

Michael Flores  
Lynn Westbrook

#### Staff Present

Don Minton, Attorney Legal Dept  
Jane Tomchik, Neighborhood Services  
Yolie Cedillo, Community Development

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call & Discussion and Action on Committee absences  
No absences
4. Citizen Comment Period (individuals limited to 3 minutes; no specific action may be taken)  
None
5. Discussion and Action to approve minutes of April 11, 2016  
Motion made by Tommy Loyd and seconded by Bill Sparks to approve the minutes.  
Motion passes unanimously
6. Discussion and Action to formally accept the resignation of Ms. Aldina Rosales.  
Motion made by Bill Sparks and seconded by Siria Rocha to accept the resignation of the former secretary. Motion passes unanimously.
7. Discussion and Action to Elect a new Secretary  
Siria Rocha makes a motion to nominate Joe Fierro as the new secretary for the committee.  
Bill Sparks seconds the motion. Joe Fierro accepts the nomination and the motion passes unanimously.

8. Update: Transportation Issues for Veterans – Sun Metro follow up  
Sun Metro invited the committee and local agencies to meet on June 6 at 1:00 p.m. to exchange ideas on how the pilot program will work. David Nevarez reminds members to attend and stresses the importance of finding out the type of identification that will be used to obtain the discounted fare.
9. Discussion and Action: Identification of Housing Issues for Veterans and Possible Recommendations to address housing Issues for Veterans  
Mr. Sparks highly recommends increasing the HUD vash coupons in the community. He would like to meet with the Housing Finance Corporation to understand what their capabilities are. Mr. Nevarez feels a community of permanent housing for veterans is the better option but there is a concern on the cost to maintain the home and the community.  
Mr Sparks points out that El Paso needs emergency shelter for single homeless veterans, veterans with families, a transitional living center for women with children and a shelter for veterans with mental health illnesses or chronic unemployment. Balfour Beatty and Pride Industries are known for transforming housing on base into living quarters for families. Mr. Sparks would like to explore whether some duplexes on base could be remodeled and used for transitional living homes. Mr. Nevarez asks if the city can donate furniture they are no longer using to this cause. Don Minton will research and bring info to the next meeting. Mr. Sparks asks if CD can find out what type of zoning was issued to the group home of Hope Jackson. Mr. Minton responds that type of information can be researched for the committee once a written formal request is made to the department.
10. Discussion and Action on creating a sub-committee for employment issues  
Daisy Ramos, Tommy Loyd, Joe Fierro volunteer to be on the sub-committee.  
  
Michael Flores reports:  
12.2% of the county workforce are veterans.  
The 2014 census reflects 5.9% of the El Paso population are veterans  
As of January 1, 2016 1185 veterans have applied for jobs with the county.  
As of January 1, 2016 14000 applications have been received
11. Discussion: Committee members report on upcoming Veteran events in the community  
  
Mr. Sparks reported:
  - Up to 300 veterans in need were fed in a month by the Veterans Non-Profit.
  - June 11 the VA Non-profit will be hosting a 5k run/walk at Ascarate Park.
  - County Veterans Court is hosting the Veterans Legal Clinic on June 11 at El Paso Community College
12. Adjourn  
Motion made by Bill Sparks and seconded by Joe Fierro to adjourn the meeting.  
Motion passes unanimously.  
Meeting adjourned at 11:41 a.m.