



CITY CLERK DEPT
2019 SEP 23 PM3:31

Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee

August 19th, 2019 – 11:00 am
300 N. Campbell – CITY 1, Main Room

MINUTES

Members Present

Lance Lehr
Efren Montelongo
Joe Fierro
Donald Crawford
Todd Miller
Ed Fleming
Nathaniel Chaney
Bruce Biegel
Lynn Westbrook

Members Absent

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:** Military Veterans Peer Network informed the committee of the upcoming 7th Annual Veterans Symposium to be held August 24th.

5. **Community Updates:** Presentation on the Military Spouses Economic Empowerment Zone presented by National University's Department of Veteran and Military Outreach Nathalia Rodriquez..

- Discussion on how the MSEEZ create meaningful employment opportunities for military spouses
- Discussion on statistical spouse employment data: Unemployment rate 16%; 1 in 10 actively seeking employment; 67% quit job due to military move; 69% more work experience than required; 71% More formal education than required.
- Discussion on MSEEZ national goal to hire 100K Military Spouses through a fellowship program in the next 3 years. Currently at 26K.

- Discussion on getting the El Paso Chamber of Commerce involved with the MSEEZ.

6. Discussion and Action to approve minutes of June 28th and July 23rd, 2019: Minutes approved

7. Discussion and Action on absent or Show VAAC Members: Motion and Second to approve Excused Absences from June 28th and July 23rd.

8. Discussion and Action: Community and Human Development recognition of an El Paso VSO for Superior Service:

- Discussion and Action to allow a silent vote on August 23rd and August 29th. The Committee chose The Steven A Cohen Military Family Clinic at Endeavors for recognition.

9. Discussion and Action: VAAC Priority focus areas for fall / winter 2019

- Discussion focus areas of Employment, Education, Homelessness, Marketing/ Outreach, and Business Incentives.
- Action: The VAAC chose Employment, Education, Homelessness and Market / Outreach as focus areas.
- Action: Assignment of Sub-Committees will be at next meeting September 23rd, 2019.

10. Discussion: Update from El Paso County Veterans Advisory Board, Efren Montelongo.

- Discussion on the status of the County Needs Assessment.
- County Veteran Financial Assistance Grant. Funds available to Veterans who have experienced financial difficulty. Not a Self-Inflicted hardship.
- Discussion on getting more transition information from Ft. Bliss TAP to County and City for informing veterans.

11. Veteran and Military Affairs Update:

- Informed on the current status of Homeless veterans. 76 Homeless. Down from 82 in the previous month.
- Presented the approved 2019 DVMA Budget.
- Discussion on the DVMA Strategic Plan

12. Announcements: Travis Manion 9/11 Heroes Run September 7th 10am

13. Next VAAC Meeting: September, 23rd, 2019 11:00 am City Hall, Main room 2nd Floor.

14. Adjourn: 12:25 pm

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.