



## Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee

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October 10, 2016 – 11:00 am  
300 N. Campbell – CITY 1  
Council Chambers

### MINUTES

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call & Discussion and Action on Committee absences  
**None**
4. Citizen Comment Period (individuals limited to 3 minutes; no specific action may be taken)  
**None**
5. **Discussion and Action to approve minutes of September 12, 2016**  
Motion made by Bill Sparks and seconded by Joe Fierro to approve the minutes.  
**Motion passes unanimously.**
6. **Election of Chair, Vice Chair**  
Bill Sparks makes a motion and is seconded by Siria Rocha to leave the current appointees in office. **Motion passes unanimously.**
7. **Discussion and Action: VAAC Committee Letter/Report for City Council**
  - \* Excused/Unexcused Absences – Motion made by Mr. Sparks and seconded by Mr. Loyd to add an action item on every agenda regarding absences. Motion made by Board Secretary Mr. Fierro and seconded by Mr. Sparks that members email him and copy the city secretary to ensure someone receives prior notice of an absence.  
**Both motions pass unanimously**  
*Formal vote will take place during the VAAC meeting on excusing the members that notified city staff that they are not able to attend the meeting.*
  - \* Request for City to include a Veterans Affairs Tab on the first page of the city's website – Mr. Sparks would like it to direct veterans to a resource page with numbers to call for assistance.
  - \* Committees progress regarding transportation and housing issues – Mr Escobedo from Sun Metro states the transit passes agreement was finalized & distributed to participating agencies. Once Sun Metro receives a signed agreement an ID will be issued in 3 days. Motion made by Mr. Kennedy and seconded by Ms. Rocha to issue swipe cards to the veterans who will be utilizing the discount transit service. **Motion passes unanimously.**
  - \* VAAC term limit to 4 years rather than 2 years – Motion made by Mr. Loyd and seconded by Ms. Ramos to keep term limits to 2 years for now. **Motion passes unanimously.**
  - \* Mr. Sparks would like for city council to consider having an independent housing policy for veterans with special needs or circumstances.

8. **Discussion and Action: Review Bylaws/ Resolution/Ordinance**
  - \* Update Meeting Frequency (Every other month) *Bylaws – Section 8***No changes.**
  - \* Create New Policy for Attendance and Excused/Unexcused Absences *Bylaws – Section 6***Refer to Item 7.**
9. **Update: Housing Sub-Committee**  
**No update from the Sub-Committee.**

Ms. Castillo shares information on campaign efforts the U.S. Interagency Council has to end homelessness.
10. **Update: Employment Sub-Committee**

Ms. Ramos reports that various hiring fairs have been held at Ft. Bliss and in El Paso. She would like to see job opportunities included on the Veteran's Tab once it is created as part of the city website.
11. **Update: Homeless Campground Site (Homeless Coalition)**

Ms. Castillo states the idea of a campground site has never been pursued because the homeless shelters throughout the city are not filled to capacity therefore a campground site would not be favorable to the city.
10. **Discussion: Committee members report on upcoming Veteran events in the community**
  - Texas Veterans App is available.
  - October 11, 2016 El Paso/Ft. Bliss Entrepreneurship Boot Camp – Chamber of Commerce, Civic Center
  - November 10, 2016 Red White & Blue hiring event - Centennial Conference Center in Ft. Bliss.
  - Veterans Breakfast – Optimist Club - Meet last Thursday of every month
  - Veterans Non-Profit Food Drive
11. **Identification and discussion of items for future agendas.**

None
12. **Adjourn**

Mr. Sparks makes a motion and is seconded by Tommy Loyd to adjourn the meeting.  
Meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m