

APPROVED

MINUTES

Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee

October 12, 2015 – 5:30 pm
801 Texas Ave – CITY 3
Trost Conference Room

Members Present

David Nevarez
Siria Rocha
Bill Sparks
Aldina Rosales
Brian Kennedy
Tommy L. Loyd
Michael Flores

Members Absent

Joe Fierro

Late Arrivals

Lynn Westbrook

City Staff Present

Verónica Soto, AICP Director Community and Human Development
Cary Westin, Director Economic Development
Ramon Herrera, Lead Public Affairs Coordinator
Yolie Cedillo, Secretary

AGENDA

Item 1: Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:35 p.m.

Item 2: Roll Call

Members that were present introduced themselves to those in attendance.

Item 3: Pledge of Allegiance

Item 4: Election of Chair, Vice-Chair

Motion was made by Bill Sparks, seconded by Siria Rocha and unanimously approved to appoint David Nevarez as Chair.

Motion made by Tommy L. Loyd, seconded by Brian Kennedy and unanimously approved to appoint Tommy L. Loyd as Vice-Chair.

Item 5: Citizen Comment Period (each individual will be limited to 3 minutes; no specific action may be taken on these items.)

Michael Ramirez from Irreverent Warriors invites the committee to attend a 22 km walk on November 7, 2015 and asks for help in getting the word out about the event.

Item 6: Information on upcoming "Welcome Home" Veteran's Event

Item was postponed by Representative Acosta.

Item 7: Discussion: Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee Ordinance

Michael Flores, ex-officio points out that the resolution passed by City Council on May 5, 2015 has his title listed as El Paso County Veteran's Affairs Coordinator which is incorrect. His correct title is El Paso County Veteran's Service Officer.

David Nevarez asks how the city can raise awareness on the community needs regarding veterans.

Cary Westin responds that Public Information Officers can relay information on social media and states City Representatives might also place information on their website.

Bill Sparks comments there is no tab regarding VAAC on the city website.

Brian Kennedy asks whether the city allows allocated funds or fund raising to support events.

8. Discussion and Action: Adoption of Committee By-laws

By-laws adopted with the following corrections:

Section 8: Meeting frequency: Shall meet monthly with the exception of December 2015.

Section 9: Term and Removal: The Committee shall adopt such rules and regulations for the government of its proceedings as may be deemed proper, not *inconsistent* with the ordinances and the Charter of the City and the laws of the State of Texas.

Motion made by Bill Sparks and seconded by Aldina Rosales to adopt the by-laws.

9. Discussion and Action: Adoption of Meeting Schedule for Committee

(Meeting schedule adopted as part of the by-laws)

10. Discussion: Report from committee members regarding upcoming events for veterans in the community.

Bill Sparks announces Gala will be at Fort Bliss on November 12.

11. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.