



CITY CLERK DEPT
2021 JAN 11 PM2:15

Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee

October 16, 2020 – 10:00 am
Virtual Meeting on Microsoft Teams

Live Streamed Via:

City's website. <http://www.elpasotexas.gov/videos>

Television on City15

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofelpasotx/videos>

MINUTES

Members Present

Lance Lehr
Bruce Biegel
Dean Sanders
Don Parrott
Justin Rotti
Hope Jackson
Reginald Daniel
Laura Butler

Unfilled Positions

District 1

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting Called to Order at 10:02 am.
2. **Roll Call:** *Quorum.*
3. **Citizen Comment Period:** No Comments presented
4. **Community Update:** Assistant Director of Endeavors Wellness Center – Kimberly Anderson
Resilience Building Leader –Kanessa Trent, Uhuru Salmon

Presentation followed by Discussion: Kimberly Anderson presented the Endeavors Veteran Wellness Center. Wellness is an active process through which people become aware of, and make choices towards, a more successful existence. The Center uses a wellness model to assess Veterans for specified therapy. The center also provides Virtual therapy. Eligible guidelines are not restrictive. All Veterans are eligible. Contact the Clinic at 210-866-3860, VWC-SA@endeavors.org or www.endeavors.org/programs/veteran-wellness-center.

Discussion on eligibility- Endeavors will exhaust all measure to ensure veterans can receive the proof of status so they can receive services. Discussion on Homeless veterans- veterans can go to the VA and the Homeless response team will provide immediate services.

Presentation followed by Discussion: Uhuru Salmon of Resilience Building leadership program. This program provides a Resilience Building leadership professional certificate to any For-Profit organization free of cost through the Texas Workforce Commission. They identify problems in the work place and offer solutions by building resilient teams. For more information contact Justin Politte@resiliencebuildingleader.com or 619-508-0133 or www.resiliencebuildingleader.com

Discussion: A Non Profit can receive the benefits of this training however it is a more rigorous process. The training is 1 hour once a week with an exam at the end.

5. Discussion and Action on No Show or Absent VAAC Members:

Reginald Daniel District 4-Approved

Laura Butler District 5-Approved

6. Discussion and Action to approve minutes of September 18, 2020 Approved

7. Discussion and action on updating VAAC By-Laws

Discussion on adding 4- year term limit to the By-laws and incorporating that a council rep will appoint a committee member within 30 days of a vacancy. Assistant City Attorney explained that 30-day appointment rule would must be in the resolution. Dean Sanders and Bruce Biegel agreed that it should be a 90- day appointment rule to give more time to the Council representatives. ACTION: Motion and Second- Vote is unanimous that the resolution will include a 90 day appointment rule.

8. Discussion and Action: Sub Committee Chairs update on assigned focus areas.

Bruce Biegel – Employment

Team Red White and You hiring fair will be November 5th, 2020. Unemployment in El Paso is just below 7% and is going up in the month of October. Veterans are still looking for work.

Hope Jackson – Homelessness

Attending an HMIS committee meeting. Will send an email to committee members to take part in the Point in Time homeless count. Send an email and is waiting report on how often an organization will report the Veteran PSH Program. Request is monthly. Steven Mills is working with justice-involved Veterans at Veterans Non Profit. Looking for someone who may be able to help. Justin Rotti explained that the Delta Center is seeing great success on rapid rehousing for Veterans. The best way to get help is to send them to the shelter. Couch Surfing is more difficult. Mike Amaral of the El Paso VA encourages anybody to be a part of the point in time count of the homeless. John Martin of the OC called in to report served 1385 individuals at the delta site. Veterans represent 6% of that population around 90 veterans. Dedicated an HCHV shelter as a Veteran Shelter. Looking to add an additional 5 beds specific for female Veterans.

Marketing- Lance Lehr

Asked if the Workforce Borderplex job fair could be a part of Sun City Bliss. Make sure it is shared on all City marketing venues. Camille from the EPCH explained that social organizations work the Point in time survey. The county is broken down into 16 sections with around 90 personnel. To volunteer contact the VA or the El Paso Coalition for the Homeless. Training must be accomplished first. Training in January 21, 2021.

9. Discussion: Update from El Paso County Veterans Advisory Board

Carl Dwyer introduced Linda Mais to speak about the El Paso County Hidden Heroes program. It is a part of the Elizabeth Dole foundation and exists to provide resources to Veteran care Givers. Saturday November 14th 10am will be a drive through caregiver fair at the Stephen Cohen Clinic. Paul Albright as the chief Military officer and responsible for the City's military program, volunteered to incorporate the County representative as the City representative and would work with her to incorporate the program into the City. Bruce Biegel motioned to have the VAAC vote to make the decision official. Under the Marketing agenda item, Bruce Biegel made a motion to have Linda Mias work with Paul Albright to market the Hidden Heroes program. Second by Reggie Daniel. Action Passed Unanimously.

10. Division of Veteran and Military Affairs Update

Paul Albright showed the slides that were briefed to Council on September 29th 2020 that highlighted the work of the Military and Veteran Affairs division of the City. There will be a Veterans Day Virtual 5K October 26 – November 2. Runner will receive a T-Shirt and they will only need to a video to recognize our Veterans on Veterans Day.

13. Announcements- Lance Lehr received the AUSA SMA William Bainbridge award for exceptional commitments to Soldiers.

14. Next VAAC Meeting: November 20, 2020 10:00 AM Virtual Meeting online.

15. Adjourn- 1135AM

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 11 DAY OF June AT 14:15 BY PAUL ALBRIGHT.