



CITY CLERK DEPT
2021 JUL 1 AM 11:41

Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee

November 25, 2019 – 11:00 am
300 N. Campbell – CITY 1, Main Room

MINUTES

Members Present

Lance Lehr
Nathaniel Chaney
Bruce Biegel
Andrea Hutchins
Hope Jackson

Members Absent

Todd Miller

Unfilled Positions

District 3,4,8

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting Called to Order at 11:00 am.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Roll Call:** *Quorum*.

4. **Citizen Comment Period:** Stephen Norberg from the Vietnam Veterans of America Post 844 is interested in extending the American Contract Bridge League to Ft. Bliss Soldiers.

5. **Community Updates:** Presentation from Tanya Rico EPCC Veterans Resource Center

- EPCC has enrolled 8400 Veterans and 7200 Military affiliated students over the last 3 years. The center assists Veterans and their family members navigate the process of applying, and seeking funding for their education. They provide multiple services such as book rental and laptops for students. They facilitate community engagement in order to connect resources to students. These programs are resourced by community support programs and local donations.
- Discussion: Request a comprehensive list of certifications provided by EPCC to be sent to the FT. Bliss Transition Assistance Center for transitioning Soldiers.
- Discussion: VA Work Study for a transitioning Soldier.

6. Discussion and Action to approve minutes of October 28th, 2019: Minutes approved. Grammatical errors identified.

7. Discussion and Action on absent or Show VAAC Members: Motion and Second to approve excused absences of Todd Miller District 7.

- Discussion: Ramifications of multiple absences. After three consecutive absences, the member can be removed from the committee.

8. Discussion and Action: Report to City Council –January 22, 2020.

- Discussion about briefing during agenda review in lieu of regular council meeting. Motion and Second to be placed on Agenda Review January 21st.

9. Discussion and Action: Assign Community Subject matter experts to focus areas, schedule a date, and time for subcommittee planning session.

- Motioned and seconded to approve the use of SMEs.
- Sub-committee will meet at the ELP Chamber on the following dates and time:
 - Homelessness- December 10th 1:00Pm
 - Marketing / Communications- December 10th 2:00 PM
 - Employment- December 10th 3:00 PM

10. Discussion and Action: Finalize Sub-Committee

- Discussion to assign members who are not present through the email. Homelessness Committee needs two members, Marketing needs one.

11. Discussion and Action: Request for CoEP HR to brief VAAC on Veteran employment initiatives.

- Discussion on Texas State Veteran hiring initiatives to be adopted by CoEP.
- Action: Request HR to brief on Veteran Hiring Initiatives next VAAC meeting.

12. Discussion and Action: Status and direction on committee required training.

- Action: Have all committee members complete mandatory training NLT next committee meeting.

13. Discussion and Action: Update from El Paso County Veterans Advisory Board.

- County Veterans Needs Assessment has been approved by the Commissioner's court.

14. Veterans and Military Affairs Update:

- Empty District seats have been filled with the exception of District 3.
- Access passes for FT. Bliss have been extended to Veterans for up to 90 days.
- Burn Pit registry at the VA needs to be supported by all veterans
- Animal Services will be waiving all adoptions fees for Veterans and Active duty members.
- EP County looking for a Bridge Fellow

- Submitted a request for a grant from TVC to provide employment assistance with the Division of Veteran and Military Affairs as well as to help train Bridge Fellows.

15. Announcements: None

16. Next VAAC Meeting: January 17th, 2020 10:00 am City Hall, Main room 2nd Floor.

17. Adjourn: 12:16 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.