



APPROVED MINUTES Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee

**November 9, 2015 – 11:00 a.m.
801 Texas Ave – CITY 3
Thorman Conference Room**

Members Present

David Nevarez, Chair
Siria Rocha
Bill Sparks
Aldina Rosales, Secretary
Brian Kennedy
Tommy L. Loyd, Vice-Chair
Michael Flores
Lynn Westbrook
Daisy Ramos

Late Arrivals

Joe Fierro

Early Departure

Brian Kennedy

City Staff Present

Verónica Soto, AICP, Director, Community and Human Development
Don Minton, Attorney
Yolie Cedillo, Secretary

AGENDA

Item 1: Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 11:00 a.m.

Item 2: Roll Call

All members present with the exception of Joe Fierro who called ahead to notify he would be late.

Item 3: Pledge of Allegiance

Item 4: Election of Secretary

Siria Rocha nominates Aldina Rosales for Secretary. Motion made by Siria Rocha and

seconded by Brian Kennedy to appoint Aldina Rosales as secretary. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 5: Discussion and Action to approve minutes of October 12, 2015

Motion made by Brian Kennedy and seconded by Lynn Westbrook to approve minutes. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 6: Citizen comment period

Jeff Ward and Patrick Mulvey from El Paso Composite Squadron Civil Air Patrol provide a flyer with details about the Wreaths Across America event organized yearly where Christmas wreaths are placed at the gravesites of fallen soldiers in the month of December.

Item 7: Information on upcoming “Welcome Home” Veteran’s Event

Item was deleted and will be placed on the next meeting agenda corrected to read as follows: “Welcome Home” Viet Nam Veterans Event.

Item 8: Overview of Legal duties of Committee

Don Minton, Legal Counsel identifies and explains the mission statements of the committee:

1. Committee is to be a source of information
2. Committee should identify and review existing community sources
3. Review the sources identified and make recommendations when something is lacking
4. Stimulate public awareness on veteran’s needs
5. Prepare and report to council

The committee **cannot** take actions but may come up with solutions and recommendations to present to city council.

The committee should function like an open and honest government while following the requirements of the Open Meetings Act, Public Information Act and Ethics Ordinance Act

The committee will serve as an Advisory Committee and always use caution when proposing new ideas and ensure they are in line with the mission statements.

Item 9: Presentation of baseline demographic information about Veterans in greater El Paso area

After reviewing the demographic information and discussion, the committee agrees to use 49,000 as a base line number of veterans within the El Paso area.

Item 10: Discussion and Action: Action Plan for the Committee to include focus areas, actionable items, 6 month and 12 month expected outcomes, possible sub-committees, possible outreach and marketing for Committee, possible budget items

The committee identifies health care, mental health needs, employment and transportation as 4 of the biggest challenges veterans face on a daily basis

The committee is advised the first 6 month report to city council will be due March 2016. The next report will include results from March 2016 to October 2016.

Mr. Nevarez suggests the committee assess one issue per month with transportation being the first. The meeting in December will identify specific problems with transportation and the following meeting will include possible solutions to this problem. Additional issues will be taken in the same manner in the following order: Transportation, Housing, Employment

Item 11: Report from committee members regarding upcoming Veteran events in the community

Proclamation at city council meeting November 10th.

Job Fair at the Centennial Club

Workshop hosted by Score

Gala at Ft Bliss

Homeless Coalition at La Paz Faith Church

Item 12: Adjourn: Meeting is adjourned at 1:36 p.m.

Chair

Secretary

Date

Date