



Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee

September 12, 2016 – 11:00 am
300 N. Campbell – CITY 1
Council Chambers

MINUTES

Committee members present

David Nevarez
Tommy Loyd
Bill Sparks
Joe Fierro
Michael Flores
Lynn Westbrook

Absences

Patrick Kennedy
Siria Rocha
Daisy Ramos

City Staff Present

Verónica R. Soto, AICP, Director
Marvin Foust, Attorney Legal Department
Soraya Ayub-Palacios, Neighborhood Relations Coordinator
Fernie Valdez, Research & Management Assistant
Yolie Cedillo, Secretary

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call & Discussion and Action on Committee absences
Absences: Siria Rocha, Patrick Kennedy, Daisy Ramos
4. Citizen Comment Period (individuals limited to 3 minutes; no specific action may be taken)
None
5. Discussion and Action to approve minutes of August 15, 2016
Motion made by Bill Sparks and seconded by Joe Fierro to approve minutes. Motion passes unanimously.
6. Update: Homeless Campground Site (Attorney)
Ms. Soto shares that the Homeless Coalition does not consider a campsite to be a good model or solution and would not be allowed in El Paso due to zoning issues. Since most of

the funding comes from HUD then a different source of funding needs to be found.
Mr. Foust is asked to bring forth information on the possibility of a campsite as a temporary solution.

7. Discussion: Request that the City include a Veterans Tab on the city's website

Mr. Sparks would like the city website to have a tab with phone numbers and links where veterans can call to inform themselves on services offered by the city, state, county and federal government. He asks for the request to be added to the draft letter for city council.

8. Discussion: Committee Meeting Attendance and Excused Absenses

Motion made by Michael Flores and seconded by Bill Sparks to table this item until the next meeting. Motion passes unanimously.

9. Discussion: VAAC Committee Report for City Council

A draft letter will be drawn up for the next meeting and an item will be placed on the city council agenda to inform council of the committee's progress regarding transportation and housing. Bill Sparks proposes to put together a program of continuum care for veterans in dire need of emergency shelter that have different types of housing needs.

10. Discussion: Committee members report on upcoming Veteran events in the community

Veterans Non-Profit accepting turkey donations for veterans
Homeless Veteran Standown September 16, 2016 at the Armory 7600 Montana
September 22nd Albuquerque Business Opportunity Center will hold a free bootcamp event at Ft. Bliss from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (lunch provided)
September 13th County Advisory Committee meets at 1:00 p.m.
September 14th Veteran's Citizens Advisory Panel with Congressman O'Rourke at 5:30 p.m. at the Armed Services YMCA on 7060 Comington St followed by the meeting below
September 14th Garrison Commanders Summit at 7:00 p.m. (same location as above)

11. Identification and discussion of items for future agendas.

Joe Fierro would like to discuss the possibility of the committee meeting at a public event to make the committee more visible

Mr. Foust advises the committee that would be considered a public meeting that would require posting an agenda.

Ms. Soto introduces Soraya Ayub-Palacios as one of the main points of contact. She also reminds them they will be reviewing their by-laws and electing new officers at the next meeting.

12. Adjourn

Motion made by Mr. Flores and seconded by Mr. Fierro to adjourn meeting at 12:24 p.m.