



CITY CLERK DEPT  
2019 NOV 25 PM1:42

## Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee

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October 28th, 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  
Ed Fleming

#### Unfilled Positions

District 3  
District 8

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting Called to Order at 11:05 am.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Roll Call:** Quorum

4. **Citizen Comment Period:** Gilda Wilson President and CEO of Operation Loving Care. Spoke about the many contributions that the Operation provides across the Veteran Community. Spoke of Therapeutic Gardens and introduced Juan Veldez to speak about the process of providing gardens to Veterans

-John Strickland Spoke about the Veronica's Initiative. Veronica's Initiative is focused on helping women affected by trauma go from surviving to thriving through a transformational neurotechnology and neuro-nutritional program that optimizes brain health. The program is designed to increase stress resiliency, reduce trauma, and improve quality of life. He is looking for women volunteers in the El Paso area who have experienced sexual trauma to take part in a clinical study.

5. **Community Updates:** No presentation

6. **Discussion and Action to approve minutes of September 23rd, 2019:** Minutes approved

**7. Discussion and Action on absent or Show VAAC Members:** Motion and Second to approve Excused Absences of Todd Miller, Andrea Hutchins, Hope Jackson. All excused

**8. Discussion and Action:** Vote on New Secretary

-Nate Chaney District 5 selected as VAAC Secretary

**9. Discussion and Action:** Vote to remove Education as a sub-committee and add it to a focus area within employment.

- Action approved. Education will be a focus area within Employment.

**10. Discussion and Action:** Assign Sub-Committees:

-Employment: Bruce Biegel (Chair), Hope Jackson, Lance Lehr, Nathaniel Chaney

-Homelessness: Nate Chaney (Chair), Hope Jackson

-Marketing / Outreach: Lance Lehr (Chair), Andrea Hutchins, Bruce Biegel

**11. Discussion and Action:** Vote to approve 2020 Annual Meeting schedule and Date for Presentation to Council: Discussion about moving the Monday Monthly meeting to Friday. Motion and Seconded to approve Moving meeting to every 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday at 10am.

**12. Discussion and Action:** Vote to add a FT. Bliss Liaison onto the Committee. Motion and Seconded. Motion Approved.

**13. Discussion: Update from El Paso County Veterans Advisory Board, Efen Montelongo.**

- Discussion on the status of the County Needs Assessment.

**14. Veteran and Military Affairs Update:**

- Updated the VAAC Members on the results of the AUSA annual National Convention.
  - Met with the Director of Defense Health Agency
  - Met with Regional Elected Officials.
  - Met with the Under Secretary of the Army for Installations and Housing.

**15. Announcements:** EPCC Veterans Resource Center Renaming Ceremony Nov 6<sup>th</sup>.

- EPCC Veterans Resource Center Thanksgiving Dinner Nov 13<sup>th</sup>.
- TWC Red White and You Hiring Fair Nov 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Veterans Association of Real Estate Professionals Christmas Party on FT. Bliss.
- Overcoming Barriers Summit UTEP Nov 19<sup>th</sup>.

**16. Next VAAC Meeting:** November 25th, 2019 11:00 am City Hall, Main room 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor.

**17. Adjourn:** 12:06 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 25<sup>th</sup> DAY OF Nov 2019 AT 1355 BY PAUL ALBRIGHT.