



**APPROVED**  
**MINUTES**  
**Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee**

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December 7, 2015 – 11:00 am  
801 Texas Ave – CITY 3  
Thorman Conference Room

**Members Present**

David Nevarez  
Bill Sparks  
Daisy Ramos  
Aldina Rosales  
Tommy L. Loyd  
Michael Flores

**Members Absent**

Brian Kennedy

**Late Arrivals**

Siria Rocha  
Lynn Westbrook

**Staff Present**

Verónica Soto, Director CD  
Juan Gonzalez, Legal  
Mark Weber, Neighborhood Services  
Alexia Hernandez, Neighborhood Services  
Yolie Cedillo, CD  
Jay Banasiak, Director Sun Metro  
Raul Escobedo, Sun Metro

**Item 1. Call to Order**

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

**Item 2. Roll Call**

Brian Kennedy not present.

**Item 3. Pledge of Allegiance**

**Item 5. Discussion and Action to approve minutes of November 9, 2015**

Motion made by Ms. Rosales and seconded by Mr. Nevarez to approve the minutes.

**Item 6. Citizen Comment Period (individuals limited to 3 minutes; no specific action may be taken)**

None

**Item 7. Information on upcoming 2016 Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Event**

Item postponed by Representative Acosta until the next meeting.

**Item 8. Update on baseline demographic information about Veterans in greater El Paso area**

Jessica Herrera from Economic Development makes a brief presentation.

The committee holds a discussion on how the numbers reported relate to the El Paso community.

**Item 9. Discussion and Action: Identification of Transportation Issues for Veterans**

A. Identification of Issue Areas to Address

Ms. Rosales reports that approximately 25 veterans are in need of immediate transportation assistance and finds that there should be a better communication process within the community on where to direct veterans for assistance.

Mr. Sparks adds that some veteran's circumstances are unique and might require special care to access any type of transportation as they might be homebound or isolated.

B. Sun Metro review of current military discounted fare eligibility

Mr. Banasiak provides a handout on the current discount bus fares and explains how the discounts work.

C. Other Transportation Issues

Vets might lack appropriate identification indicating they are indeed veterans or disabled  
Mr. Sparks recommends for Sun Metro and non-profit agencies to apply for federal funding to off-set costs for implementing discount programs.

Ms. Soto suggests forming a sub-committee to work with Sun Metro and non-profits

Motion made by Mr. Nevarez and seconded by Ms. Westbrook to form a transportation sub-committee. Motion passes. The nominees are: David Nevarez, Bill Sparks, Aldina Rosales

**Item 10. Discussion and Action: Possibility of video streaming Committee meetings**

Motion made by Mr. Nevarez and seconded by Ms. Rosales to live stream meetings

Motion made by Mr. Loyd and seconded by Mr. Sparks to live stream meetings in January 2016

**Item 11. Discussion: Committee members report on upcoming Veteran events in the community**

-Town Hall Meeting 12/08 7:00-8:00 pm (televised) Must register to attend

-Veterans Town Hall Meeting, Congressman O'Rourke 12/12/2015 at Austin High School

-Veterans Court Graduation, 12/16, 4:00 pm at County Courthouse 7<sup>th</sup> floor Judge Barills' courtroom

-County Veterans Advisory Meeting

-Wreaths Across America, December 12 at Ft. Bliss Cemetery

**Item 12. Adjourn**

Meeting is adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

**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 Committee 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 any of the following items for public discussion, as appropriate.*

*Section 551.071 CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY*

*Section 551.072 DELIBERATION 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 915-212-0138 a minimum of 48 hours prior to the date and time of the meeting. Copies of this Agenda 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.*

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Chair

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Secretary

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Date

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Date