

Veterans Advisory Board Minutes
April 26, 2016
Las Cruces City Hall

Open Meeting: The Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m., and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

American Legion Post 10	Lawrence Orvis, Chairman
DAV Chapter 10	Dan Banks
Marine Corps League	Carol Gaines (absent)
Member at Large #1	Dr. David Boje
Member at Large #2	Anthony Kessel
MOAA	Christine Sautter (absent)
United Military Women of the SouthWest	Karen Woods
Special Forces Association	Kyle Trout (excused)
VFW Post 3242	Cosme Padilla
VFW Post 6917	VACANT
VFW Post 10124	Patrick Ramirez
Vietnam Veterans	Fred Schneider (absent)
Military Order of the Purple Heart	Rod Gajewski, Vice Chairman (excused)

(A quorum of appointed members was present)

Approval of Agenda for today's meeting was motioned by Cosme Padilla and 2nd by Karen Woods. All members that are present voted unanimously.

Introduction of Guests:

New Mexico Department of Veteran Services	James Turner
Mayor's Liaison	Dolores Archuleta
Mesilla Valley Hospice	Kathy Olson
Honor Flight	Arnold Diaz
Convoy of Hope	Willie Dunn
WWII Veteran	Dwight Weir
MOPH #2004	Tony Barncastle
LC Vet Clinic	Alva Diaz
El Caldito Soup Kitchen	Donna Wood
El Caldito Soup Kitchen	Scott Murray

Handwritten note: new to second name

City of Las Cruces Staff:

Travis A. Brown	Board Coordinator
Brittany Viramontes	Recording Secretary

Acceptance of Minutes, Cosme Padilla motioned to approve the minutes from March 22, 2016 with Dr. David Boje 2nd the motion, all members that are present voted unanimously.

Old Business

- **VAB Ordinance Revision Update**, Chief Brown reported that the revision packet has been submitted to City Council. The first reading is set for May 16, 2016. The proposed adoption date is set for June 6th. The new ordinance will replace VFW 6917 for United Military Women of the SouthWest and add Member at Large #3 with student veteran affiliation. ✓
- **Parking Signs at Veterans Park**, Chief Brown has sent an email to the traffic department. He hasn't received any response yet so he will have an update on this at next month's meeting.

New Business

- **Fire Chief Transition**, Chief Brown informed the board that a new Fire Chief has been selected and will be taking over the board. Eric Enriquez is set to begin with the Fire Department on May 16, 2016 and will be present with Chief Brown at the next VAB meeting.

Public Participation

- **Willie Dunn, Convoy of Hope** are having a faith based rally on April 30, 2016 at NMSU across from the ball stadium. They are expecting between 8-10k people. The event will begin at 7:30 am and go until the groceries being given away are gone (probably around 1-2pm). So far, participants include, Homes for Heroes from Alamogordo, New Mexico Veterans Hospital, Las Cruces VA Clinic, United Military Women of the SouthWest, New Mexico Purple Heart #2004, Women Veterans of New Mexico, Mesilla Valley Community of Hope and New Mexico Department of Veteran Services. They have seven remaining tables available for veteran organizations to use to provide information on services available to veterans. Please let Willie know by noon on Thursday April 28th if you or your organization would like to participate. Please call 635-5278 or email willie@triumphantlife.org.
- **Dolores Archuleta**, the Memorial Day Vigil will be held May 30, 2016 at 8pm. The Veterans Memorial Wall Committee is looking for a veteran group to take over future planning. They are waiting on the City to contract the work out for the replacement of the temporary plaques with the permanent plaques on Veterans Memorial Wall. Once that is complete, the names will be updated on the website. Also, the Peacetime Veterans are requesting a memorial. It will be up to them to gather funding for it. And the Home Builders Association finally fixed the boulder in front of Veterans Park.
- **JR Turner**, Garrison Flag Dates are as follows: Mother's Day (May 8th), Peace Officer Day (May 15th), Armed Forces Day (May 21st), and Memorial Day (May 30th). A service flag was stolen so they are trying to find a way to secure the flag poles.
- **Kathy Olson** announced that it is her last week at Mesilla Valley Hospice but as the new Vice Chair for the Honor Flight she will still be involved with attending the VAB meetings.
- **Arnie Diaz** announced that he is the new Chairman for the Honor Flight. The next flight is to take place September 30th through October 2nd. Anyone seeking more information can call 496-3907 or visit online at honorflightnm.org.
- **Donna Wood/Scott Murray**, the El Caldito Soup Kitchen will be hosting a Veterans Appreciation Dinner on June 18, 2016 from 1-4pm at 999 W. Amador Ave. The soup

kitchen always accepts volunteers. Please call 525-8704 in advance to check on availability. You can visit elcaldito.com to view their blog and photos.

Board Member Reports

- **Dr. David Boje** gave an update on the Veterans Eco Village. They succeeded on getting the City Council's attention. They are scheduled for the Council Work Session on June 27th at 1pm. They will be meeting with a developer later this week to discuss options.
- **Dan Banks**, DAV 10 is working toward another fundraiser Motorcycle Rally tentatively set for September. The DAV Service Van will be at the Mesilla Community Center on May 12th. And as always, the DAV Vans need volunteer drivers. Contact 575-636-4269 for more information.
- **Karen Woods**, The Annual Spaghetti Dinner raised approximately \$775 for Community of Hope and El Caldito Soup Kitchen. Their chapter visited the Veterans Home in TorC. The new building for Alzheimer patients should be done by the end of the year. They will be meeting with engineers the first or second week of May regarding the Women's Monument. Tuesday April 19th, it was presented and passed by the Las Cruces School Board to have the Las Cruces High School theater named after Mr. Gaines. He retired after almost 20 years as a teacher of the school and that was after retiring 20 years with the Marine Corps. Donations are being accepted. 407-595-8432
- **Anthony Kessel** want to engage younger veterans to participate with the board and other veteran organizations. He can be reached at 701-290-4585.
- **Lawrence Orvis** the American Legion will start their food drive from July to November. Food will be donated to the El Caldito Soup Kitchen. The third Wounded Warrior Fundraiser will be held at Walmart on Rinconada from 7:30-11:30am Sunday May 8th. Run for the Wall is May 19th. The bikers should arrive at Barnett's Harley Davidson between 5-6pm. They will be camping at Girl Scout Park next to the American Legion. Breakfast will be served the following morning followed by the wreath laying at Veterans Memorial Park. The 8th Annual Wreath Memorial is May 29th at 1pm at St. Joseph's Cemetery. A group photo will be taken at approximately 1:30pm. Guests include, White Sands Missile Range Commanding General Timothy Kauffman, Mayor Ken Miyagashima or Mr. Greg Smith, Mrs. Naomi Vega singing the National Anthem, the Marine Corps Color Guard and Bugler Ray Rivera. Flag line will be led by Mr. Bruce Fonest. Bingo is on Wednesdays and Saturdays; first game starts at 6:30pm. Last game is \$1,000 blackout. \$10 to play. Food and drinks are available. Call 526-9139 for more information. BA Smith, who runs the front desk at the Gospel Rescue Mission, will be having her wedding at Veterans Park on May 7th at 1pm.

Next Meeting: May 24, 2016

Adjournment: Dr. David Boje motioned to have the meeting adjourned, Cosme Padilla 2nd the motion. All members present voted unanimously.


Name

5-24-16
Date