

Veterans Advisory Board Minutes
May 24, 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 (excused)
Member at Large #1	Dr. David Boje (excused)
Member at Large #2	Anthony Kessel
MOAA	Christine Sautter
United Military Women of the SouthWest	Karen Woods
Special Forces Association	Kyle Trout (absent)
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 Anthony Kessel. All members that are present voted unanimously.

Introduction of Guests:

New Mexico Department of Veteran Services	James Turner
Mayor's Liaison	Dolores Archuleta
WWII Veteran	Dwight Weir
MOPH #2004	Tony Barncastle
Visitor	Paul Roach
LC Vet Center	Elva Diaz
Tiny Houses	Shannon Reynolds
NMSU Military & Vets	Erika Zaragoza

City of Las Cruces Staff:

Travis A. Brown	Board Coordinator
Brittany Viramontes	Recording Secretary

Acceptance of Minutes, Anthony Kessel motioned to approve the minutes from April 26, 2016 with Cosme Padilla 2nd the motion, all members that are present voted unanimously.

Old Business

- **VAB Ordinance Revision Update**, Chief Brown reported that the revised ordinance goes before City Council on June 6. The new ordinance will replace VFW 6917 for United Military Women of the SouthWest and add Member at Large #3 with student veteran affiliation. This still leaves a total of 13 members.
- **Parking Signs at Veterans Park Update**, Chief Brown received the proposed Reserved for Veterans parking signs. Each sign measures 12x18 and costs \$25 each. Placement of the signs has been proposed to be on either side of the existing handicap spots. Cosme Padilla motioned to move forward with the project and placement at Veterans Park. Karen Woods 2nd the motion and all members voted unanimously.
- **Parking Lot Expansion at Veterans Park Update**, Chief Brown reported that the City approved ½ a million dollars for capital improvements. Parking expansion at Veterans Park is on the City's radar. Land trade is still in discussion and funding is available now for purchase of land. Mr. Garza also sent Mrs. Archuleta an email stating that funding has been approved.

New Business

- **Meeting Attendance Requirements**, Chief Brown iterated to the board that the attendance requirements set forth by the City Clerk's Office state that 75% attendance of yearly meetings are required and 3 or more consecutive absences should result in automatic release from the board. The City Clerk's Office should be notified immediately for appointment of a replacement. Leave of absences can be requested for up to three months. Email Chief Enriquez with your leave requests and it will be routed through the City Clerk's Office. Attendance will be tracked between April 1st and March 30th every year.

Public Participation

- **Memorial Day Candlelight Vigil**, Dolores Archuleta stated that the Memorial Day Vigil will be held May 30, 2016 at 8pm. They are in need of sponsors for placement of the candles. All sponsors need to be there by 7pm. Currently they need 8 volunteers for WWII and 5 for the Korean War. Anyone interested needs to register with Mrs. Archuleta. Following the Garrison Flag raising on Memorial Day, Special Forces will be holding a wreath laying ceremony for the 2nd Engineer Battalion.
- **Anthony Barncastle** received photos of the completed Purple Heart Memorial. They are working with Parks and Recreation for installation. The monument is almost identical to the one in Albuquerque. August 7th is National Purple Heart Day which is when the unveiling and dedication of the monument is set to be done. The Monument will be placed to the right of the pathway near the Garrison Flag pole.  Mr. Turner added that some trees that are starting to show age are being removed and they are transplanting some new ones. 
- **JR Turner**, Garrison Flag Dates are as follows: Memorial Day (May 30th), Flag Day (June 14th) and Father's Day (June 19th).
- **Shannon Reynolds** reported that after the first semester of the Tiny House project, it came in a little over budget so they are working on some modifications. Two properties for potential placement of a small Tiny Home Village have been identified. One property near the I-10 and I-25 split belongs to the State and NMSU. The other property is off of Highway 70 and belongs to a developer. Christine Sautter explained that bus services

need to be available at or near either property since most of the individuals who will be residing in this proposed village do not have cars or even driver's licenses. A work session is scheduled for June 27th at 1pm.

Board Member Reports

- **Dan Banks**, DAV will be having their convention in Albuquerque in early June. DAV 10 is still working toward another fundraiser Motorcycle Rally tentatively set for September. DAV 10 will be out at the Dona Ana County Cemetery placing flags at 10am on the 29th.
- **Christine Sautter**, Hospice will be having a small memorial celebration Friday May 27th at 2pm at La Posada. They met with the new director of Hospice and it's been said that their mission will continue.
- **Karen Woods**, the dedication for the Robert Gaines Theatre at Las Cruces High School was well attended. United Military Women will be placing vases at the columbarium on May 27th. They will also be doing a park cleanup on the 7th and 21st of June. The Vet Appreciation dinner will be June 18th at the El Caldito Soup Kitchen.
- **Patrick Ramirez**, the VFWs will be holding a Memorial Ceremony at Hillcrest Cemetery at 9am. Cosme Padilla added that there will also be a River-side Ceremony at 8am.
- **Anthony Kessel**, announced that his place of employment has changed. He is no longer directly affiliated with one specific Veteran organization however he does work closely with the Department of Labor because of Veterans priority service.
- **Travis Brown**, shared a farewell with the board and thanked them for allowing him to be a part of it. His retirement ceremony will be held at The Game on Espina on May 26th at 12pm.
- **Lawrence Orvis**, 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 Coffin, 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. The Run for the Wall was very well attended. Over 400 bikers came through Las Cruces.

Next Meeting: June 28, 2016

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


Name

6-28-16
Date