

Veterans Advisory Board Minutes
July 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
Member at Large #1	Dr. David Boje (absent)
Member at Large #2	Anthony Kessel (absent)
Member at Large #3 (Student)	VACANT
MOAA	Christine Sautter
United Military Women of the SouthWest	Karen Woods
Special Forces Association	Kyle Trout
VFW Post 3242	Cosme Padilla
VFW Post 10124	Patrick Ramirez
Vietnam Veterans	Fred Schneider
Military Order of the Purple Heart	Rod Gajewski, Vice Chairman

(A quorum of appointed members was present)

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

Introduction of Guests:

New Mexico Department of Veteran Services	James Turner
Mayor's Liaison	Dolores Archuleta
MOPH #2004	Tony Barncastle
Rep. Congressman Steve Pearce	Joe Martinez
Honor Flight	Kathy Olson
El Paso VA- LC CBOC	Dorian Tapia
LC CBOC	Crystal Davis-Whited
Veterans Car Show	David Cheek
NMSU	Erika Zaragoza
NMSU	Hector Sanchez

City of Las Cruces Staff:

Jason Smith	Deputy Chief- Fire Department
Brittany Viramontes	Recording Secretary

Acceptance of Minutes, Dan Banks motioned to approve the minutes from June 28, 2016 with Cosme Padilla 2nd the motion, all members that are present voted unanimously.

Old Business

- **Purple Heart Monument Placement**, a motion was made by Karen Woods to ascent the original site voted on by the board. Kyle Trout second the motion. All members present voted unanimously. Fred Schneider motioned to accept the preferred site of the monument. Cosme Padilla second the motion. All members present voted unanimously.
- **Veteran Parking Signs at Veterans Park Update**, no update. Revisit during next meeting.

New Business- NONE

Public Participation

- **David Cheek** invited the board and guests to a Veterans Car Show to be held Saturday August 13, 2016 from 9am to 3pm at the First Presbyterian Church located at 200 E. Boutz. For more information, call 522-0750.
- **JR Turner**, Garrison Flag Dates are as follows: Korean War Armistice Day (July 27th). There are no scheduled flag dates in August. They are looking for participation from Fire, Police, ROTC and children's groups at these flag raisings. Also, approximately 100 bricks remain. Cost is \$40. 30+ bricks will be laid tomorrow (7/27).
- **Crystal Davis-Whited** reported that since the City bus routes have changed, they are no longer stopping at the VA Clinic. Mrs. Christine Sautter mentioned that with the new route, there is a stop on Missouri about a block away from Don Roser. After considerable discussion, Dan Banks and Rod Gajewski will review all changes to possibly make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council. Mr. Joe Martinez asked if the new CBOC would have bus services. New routes do accommodate new CBOC location however requires crossing the street. The alternate Dial-a-ride services require to be scheduled two weeks in advance which is not ideal for veterans requiring more immediate assistance. More information will be gathered for the next VAB meeting. A correction to last month's meeting regarding the new CBOC, Melanie Goodman had stated that the planning phase was completed. This information is incorrect. The planning phase is ALMOST completed but there are still some details being worked out. Crystal introduced her new assistant and patient advocate Dorian Tapia. Dorian and Crystal will be trading out attending our VAB meetings based on their schedules. There is a new nurse practitioner on board, her name is Irene Zamora. Irene is seeing veteran patients that have opted out of the choice program until a new practitioner is hired. Mr. Gajewski asked if a list of contacts at the CBOC could be provided for the VAB board members to provide to their individual organizations.
- **Kathy Olson**, a pancake breakfast fundraiser for Honor Flight will be held Saturday August 6th from 8am to 11pm at the VFW Post 6917. Tickets are \$5. Only a few spots remain for veterans to attend the Honor Flight. More information will be given the closer it gets to take off.
- **Erica Zaragoza** introduced the new director for NMSU's Military Veteran Programs, Mr. Hector Sanchez.
- **Hector Sanchez** stated that Military Veterans Programs is now located centrally on campus on the 2nd floor of Corbett Center in room 244. Mr. Gajewski asked Mr. Sanchez to encourage the young veterans at NMSU to join veteran's organizations and get involved with veteran affairs.

Board Member Reports

- **Dan Banks**, the DAV10 along with the Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts will be having a flag retirement ceremony July 29th at 5:30pm at the American Legion Post 10.
- **Rod Gajewski** provided the program for the dedication of the Purple Heart Monument being held at Veterans Park, August 7th at 10am. Hospice will be serving refreshments afterwards.
- **Kyle Trout** stated that El Paso will be hosting the Special Forces Convention in 2018. This could be a great opportunity to get tourism in New Mexico- more specifically Las Cruces and Dona Ana County. Shuttles will be running to and from El Paso for this conference.
- **Karen Woods**, announced that the United Military Women of the SouthWest will be giving away children's clothing in the parking lot of the El Caldito Soup Kitchen beginning at 10am on July 30th. Also, the groundbreaking for the Women's Monument is set for September 10th at 10am.
- **Lawrence Orvis**, Bingo Wednesdays and Saturdays; first game starts at 6:30pm. Last game is \$1,000 blackout. \$10 to play. The next fundraiser food drive benefitting El Caldito Soup Kitchen, Gospel Rescue Mission, Oak Street Apartments, Camp Hope and Tent City will be held at Walmart on Rinconada August 6th from 7:30 to 11:30am.
- **Jason Smith**, reappointment for Karen Woods was on Monday, July 25th. The work session for the Tiny Home Eco-Village is scheduled for August 8th at 1pm. One of our firefighters, Kevin Papke, will be deploying around mid-august to Kuwait for about a year.

Next Meeting: August 23, 2016

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


Name


Date