

Veterans Advisory Board Minutes
August 23, 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 (excused)
Marine Corps League	Carol Gaines
Member at Large #1	Dr. David Boje
Member at Large #2	Anthony Kessel
Member at Large #3 (Student)	VACANT
MOAA	Christine Sautter
United Military Women of the SouthWest	Karen Woods (excused)
Special Forces Association	Kyle Trout
FWW Post 3242	Cosme Padilla
FWW 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 Fred Schneider and 2nd by Cosme Padilla. All members that are present voted unanimously.

Introduction of Guests:

New Mexico Department of Veteran Services	James Turner
Mayor's Liaison	Dolores Archuleta
Honor Flight	Kathy Olson
El Paso VA- LC CBOC	Dorian Tapia
LC CBOC	Crystal Davis-Whited
Veterans Car Show	David Cheek
NMSU	Hector Sanchez
City of Las Cruces Transit	Mike Bartholomew
City of Las Cruces	David Maestas
DA Office	Dan Rosales
DA Office	Patrick Hayes
VA Healthcare	Jackie Williams
VVA & KWVA	Bruce Fonnest
El Paso VA	Elvia Franco
American Legion Post #10	Dwight Weir
Las Cruces Sun News	Steve Ramirez
Honor Flight	Arnold Diaz

City of Las Cruces Staff:

Eric Enriquez
Brittany Viramontes

Board Coordinator
Recording Secretary

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

Old Business

- **Veteran Parking Signs at Veterans Park Update,** signs have been delivered to Parks & Rec and should be installed no later than next week.

New Business

- **Veterans Advisory Board Facebook,** brief discussion took place about implementing a Facebook page for the Veterans Advisory Board in attempts to reach a larger audience for veteran affiliated events and to hopefully engage younger veterans' participation.

Public Participation

- **Treatment Veterans Court,** Dan Rosales with the District Attorney's Office visited the Veteran's Court in El Paso and got to hear testimonials of individuals in the program. This program diverts veterans from jail to VA services. It is not intended to be a free ride but rather an accountability and treatment process. These courts require veterans with mental health issues to get treatment. Veteran outreach specialists receive lists of self-identified veterans from the detention center and connects these veterans with the services they need. Meetings are held at 1:30pm every Monday at the Dona Ana County Government Building located at 845 N. Motel Blvd.
- **Tiny Homes Eco-Village,** Dr. Boje updated the board regarding the Tiny Home presentation for City Council at the work session held August 8th. Four properties are being looked in to- the Mayor suggested an area of the Amador corridor just north of the Gospel Rescue Mission, two locations are near University and another location is off of Highway 70 and Porter. Its anticipated to have 10 homes built in the first year and 20 more in the second year.
- **Bus Route Changes,** David Maestas, Transportation Director for the City of Las Cruces, addressed concerns regarding the recent changes made to the bus routes near the VA Clinic on Don Roser. The newly implemented bus routes closed the bus stop near the VA Clinic and veterans are now having to walk about 3 blocks from the nearest stop to the clinic. One veteran has already been hurt trying to get to the clinic. They city's Dial-A-Ride program has been a suggested alternative but they have been known to require a two-week notice. Mr. Maestas stated that they will do what they can to mitigate the situation and work with the clinic to better accommodate veterans.
- **Veterans Day Parade,** Dolores Archuleta reported that the Veterans Day Parade will be held Friday, November 11th at 11am. School will be in session that day but the bands and ROTC will still participate. They are going to ask Mesilla if they would like to join our parade. For information or to enter the parade, please call Bill Hawkins at 621-7009. Also, the dedication for the new downtown plaza will be held on September 17th at 12pm.
- **David Cheek** announced that there will be a car show on September 25th from 9am to 3pm at the Sonoma Ranch Plaza (141 Roadrunner Pkwy). It is free to the public.

- **Mike Cano** provided copies of a photo and press release regarding the Korean War Monument. Fundraising efforts for the monument will start soon.
- **Hector Sanchez** announced that school is back in session at NMSU. They will be having a Student Veteran Picnic this Thursday, August 25th from 11am to 1pm on campus next to the Garcia Annex.
- **Kathy Olson**, gave an update on the Honor Flight. Mission 9 is full. They will be departing September 30th. They will be returning October 2nd. Mrs. Olson is asking for participation to welcome home these veterans from their journey. More information will be given out during the next Veterans Advisory Board meeting.
- **JR Turner**, Garrison Flag Dates are as follows: Labor Day (September 5th), Patriot Day (September 11th), and Constitution Day (September 17th).

Board Member Reports

- **Dr. David Boje**, Viper Transition Career Fair will be held October 28th from 1:30-3:30pm at the Conus Replacement Center Building 723 Carter Road.
- **Patrick Ramirez**, senior breakfast will be held Sunday August 28th at 9am at 709 S. Valley Dr.
- **Carol Gaines**, the groundbreaking for the Women's Monument is set for September 10th at 10am.
- **Christine Sautter** will be attending MOAA's Western Region Chapter Leaders event in Las Vegas in September.
- **Anthony Kessel** mentioned that at future meetings he will be updating the board on progress from the Veterans Priority Services as it addresses veteran unemployment and underemployment.
- **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 will be held at Walmart on Valley September 3rd from 7:30 to 11:30am.
- **Eric Enriquez**, the Patriot Day Ceremony is scheduled to be held at the Downtown Plaza on September 11, 2016 at 5pm.

Next Meeting: September 27, 2016

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


Name

9-27-2016
Date