

**Veterans Advisory Board Minutes**  
**September 27, 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 (resigned)
Marine Corps League	Carol Gaines
Member at Large #1	Dr. David Boje
Member at Large #2	Anthony Kessel (absent)
Member at Large #3 (Student)	Charles Caves
MOAA	Christine Sautter (absent)
United Military Women of the South West	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 2<sup>nd</sup> by Fred Schneider. All members that are present voted unanimously.

**Introduction of Guests:**

New Mexico Department of Veteran Services	James Turner
VFW Post 4384, DAV 38, KWVA	Mike Cano
Honor Flight	Kathy Olson
El Paso VA- LC CBOC	Dorian Tapia
NMSU	Hector Sanchez
City of Las Cruces Transit	Mike Bartholomew
DA Office	Dan Rosales
Honor Flight	Arnold Diaz
American Legion Post 10 Commander	Bob Richie
Las Cruces Vet Center	Ruth Offutt
Las Cruces Vet Center	Dale Lawrence

**City of Las Cruces Staff:**

Eric Enriquez	Board Coordinator
Brittany Viramontes	Recording Secretary

**Acceptance of Minutes**, Rod Gajewski motioned to approve the minutes from August 23, 2016 with Cosme Padilla 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, all members that are present voted unanimously.

## Old Business

- **Veteran Parking Signs at Veterans Park Update**, signs have been installed.
- **Treatment Veterans Court update**, Dan Rosales with the District Attorney's Office stated that they continue to hold their weekly meetings on Mondays at 1:30pm at the District Attorney's Office located at 845 N. Motel Blvd. They have been communicating with the detention center to help current veterans in the system. The purpose of the Veterans Court is to help non-violent offenders seek alternative services.
- **Bus Route changes update**, Mike Bartholomew with the City of Las Cruces Transit Department reported that now through November 14, 2016, veterans needing a ride to and from the VA Clinic on Don Roser can use Dial-A-Ride services free of charge. After November 14<sup>th</sup>, the charge to and from the clinic will be \$0.50. These services can be scheduled two weeks in advance up to the day before the appointment. A Work Session will be held October 10<sup>th</sup> at 1pm to discuss transit fees.
- **Veterans Park parking lot update**, Chief Enriquez stated that the city is working on purchasing property north of Veterans Park from Mr. Eddie Binns through exchange of property. Updates will be provided once more information is available.

## New Business

- **Veterans Day Parade**, Mr. James Turner reported that the Parade Committee will be meeting at 11am today. The route has been set and there are about 30 entrees to include most of the school ROTC and Bands. Staging will be at the Wells Fargo Tower and the parade will progress down Main Street. The meeting will also determine who this year's Grand Marshal(s) will be. Anyone wishing to enter the parade can contact Mr. Turner, Mr. Mike Cano or Mr. Bill Hawkins (621-7002).
- **Park cleanup**, the park cleanup schedule is as follows: October- Reserve Officer Association Chapter New Mexico-005, November- Military Order of the Purple Heart, December- Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 431.
- **Renting Veterans Park**, no representation from Parks & Rec- to be moved to next month's agenda.
- **VAB holiday schedule**, board members discussed the meeting dates in November and December that fall around the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. The November 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting date will be left as is. Cosme Padilla motioned to cancel the December 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. Dr. David Boje second the motion and all members voted unanimously.

## Public Participation

- **JR Turner**, the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Informational Fair will be held November 10<sup>th</sup> from 9am-1pm at Sunland Park Racetrack & Casino. Garrison Flag dates are as follows: Fallen Firefighters Memorial Ceremony (October 9<sup>th</sup>) and Columbus Day (October 10<sup>th</sup>).
- **Mike Cano**, about 9k has been raised for the Korean War Monument. Their goal is to raise 11k by February.
- **Bob Richie**, the American Legion is working on getting a Stand Down event in Las Cruces sometime in January or February. No actual date has been confirmed yet. The Stand Down will consist of different vendors providing services (medical, haircuts, legal aid, etc.).

- **Kathy Olson**, Honor Flight will be departing the Memorial Medical Center parking lot at 3am on Friday September 30<sup>th</sup>. They are asking for help welcoming the participants home on Sunday October 2<sup>nd</sup> around 6pm at the MMC parking lot.
- **Hector Sanchez** announced that they are planning another Military and Veterans Appreciation Week at NMSU. More details will be available at next month's meeting.

**Board Member Reports**

- **Carol Gaines**, November 10<sup>th</sup> is the Marine's 240<sup>th</sup> birthday. A party will be held November 5<sup>th</sup> at Hotel Encanto.
- **Dr. David Boje** had a meeting with representatives from NMSU about properties for the Tiny Home Village. It was recommended not to pursue the property located at the I-10/I-25 split as it seems to be too expensive. Two excellent properties were proposed- one is Cole Village where student veterans are currently housed. The second property is near A Mountain where the NMSU Rodeo area is. They met with Nicole Martinez at Community at Hope. They looked at property near Burn Lake and are considering that location as a Phase 2.
- **Karen Woods**, the groundbreaking for the Women's Monument held on September 10<sup>th</sup> was successful. They will be placing vases at the columbariums on Veterans Day. The United Military Women of the SouthWest is working on having their Annual Bingo December 4<sup>th</sup>.
- **Lawrence Orvis**, Bingo Wednesdays and Saturdays; first game starts at 6:30pm. Last game is \$1,000 blackout. \$13 to play. The next fundraiser food drive will be held at Walmart on Valley October 2<sup>nd</sup> from 7:30 to 11:30am.
- **Fred Schneider**

**Next Meeting: October 25, 2016**

**Adjournment:** Cosme Padilla motioned to have the meeting adjourned, Karen Woods 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All members present voted unanimously.

  
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**Name**

10.25.16  
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**Date**