



COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 2013 / 1:00 – 3:00PM
CITY HALL: COUNCIL OF CHAMBERS ROOM 1101
301 West 2nd STREET,
AUSTIN, TEXAS

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS:

Cassandra St. John, Chair	Gary Linder
Phillip Gutierres, Vice Chair	Bill McLellan
John Conley	Linda Yoder
Chris Garcia	

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

The first 4 speakers signed up prior to the meeting being called to order will each be allowed a three-minute allotment to address their concerns regarding items not posted on the agenda.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Consider approval of the minutes from the Commission on Veterans Affairs July 31, 2013 meeting.

3. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Last updates by the Committee working groups about the top three priorities for our Veterans
 1. Homeless Veterans: Lead Chris Garcia participated in meetings concerned with Homeless Veterans and discussed what the biggest issues were in solving this problem in the City. Next Committee working group meeting to be determined.
 2. Employment and Education: Meeting to be determined by Committee working group. Phillip Gutierres met with Texas Workforce solutions representatives on employment opportunities for our Veterans
 3. Female Veterans: Meeting held with Pam Maercklein from the TVC on serving women Veterans. Cassandra also reached out to Goodwill who agreed to commit to hiring female Veterans.
- b. Presentation and update from Ricardo Soliz from Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) about the City of Austin Veterans Park initiative.
- c. Veterans Day 2013: Discussion on supporting and sending a representative from the Veterans Commission to the meetings held on the 2nd Tuesday and Thursday of every month at Travis County Veteran Services Office at noon. Also discuss ways to participate in the Veterans Day Parade and other events on November 11th.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a.** Discussion on US VETS about their mission and plans to end homelessness in Austin.
- b.** Discussion on funding opportunities for the Board of Commission's projects.
- c.** Discuss ideas on gaining support from the younger community and ways to reach out to them on education and employment opportunities especially to our Veterans graduating from College.
- d.** Ideas for City service projects that the board members could participate in and become involved with the community.
- e.** Communicating with various organizations working with Veterans (i.e. Suits for Vets) and companies regarding support for our Veterans in the City of Austin and collaborating together.
- f.** Discuss parameters and guidelines for speakers to address the Commission and ensure there is not conflict of interest present during the meetings.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a.** Commissioners propose agenda items for future meetings

ADJOURNMENT

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice at least 4 days before the meeting date.

Please call Allen Bergeron at the Veterans Program Department, at 512-974-3459 or Allen.Bergeron@austintexas.gov for additional information; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711.

For more information on the Veterans Commission please contact Tina Lee at (512-974-3306 or Tina.Lee@austintexas.gov).