



## COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2013 / 1:00 – 3:00PM  
CITY HALL: COUNCIL OF CHAMBERS ROOM 1101  
301 West 2<sup>nd</sup> STREET,  
AUSTIN, TEXAS

### **CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS:**

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

## **AGENDA**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

#### **1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

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 August 30, 2013 meeting.

#### **3. OLD BUSINESS – For discussion and possible action**

- a. Last updates by the Committee working groups about the top three priorities for our Veterans
  1. Homeless Veterans: Next Committee working group meeting to be determined and discussion on “One Stop Shop” was questioned and considered.
  2. Employment and Education: Project from San Antonio reviewed and meeting was scheduled on August 16<sup>th</sup>.
  3. Female Veterans: Women Veteran Entrepreneurship was discussed and support for the pitch party on September 17<sup>th</sup> was considered and decided upon.
- b. Funding Committee working Group proposed and to be headed by Philip Gutierrez. Plan of action to be determined on funding operations and service projects.

#### **4. NEW BUSINESS – For discussion and possible action**

- a. Update and description of population of younger Veterans and how to get them involved in the community to be given by the Veteran Services Department from each University and College in Austin.
- b. Veterans Business Enterprise presentation and discussion lead by Jim Brennan who is the director of research and resources for the Texas Coalition of Veteran Organizations.

- c. Discussion on social media and OPSEC (Operations Security) regulations on what the board should consider when presenting themselves to the community through social media.
- d. Shandra Sponsler from the Texas National Guard to address the board and speak on behalf of the Guard members in Texas and how to better support those in the Guard and Reserves.
- e. Veterans Day 2013: Further discussion to serve as a supportive role for Veterans Day parade and activities was considered and decided. A representative from the Veterans Commission will be involved at the meetings held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday and Thursday of every month at Travis County Veteran Services Office at noon. Next year's participation to be more involved and participate in the parade was discussed.

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:Tina.Lee@austintexas.gov) at (512-974-3306 or [Tina.Lee@austintexas.gov](mailto:Tina.Lee@austintexas.gov)).