



COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

AGENDA

Monday, October 14, 2013

**2:00 pm – 4:00 pm in City Hall Board and Commissions Room 1101
301 West Second Street
Austin, TX 78701**

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

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

CALL TO ORDER

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Citizens 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

Consider approval of the minutes from the Commission on Veterans Affairs September 19, 2013 regular meeting.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

4. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Last updates by the Commission's working groups about the top three priorities for our Veterans in the City of Austin.
 - i. Homeless Veterans: Lead Chris Garcia continues to attend the ECHO (Ending Community Homelessness Coalition) meetings about the status of our homeless Veterans. Chris recommends supporting US VETS's initiative on housing in Austin.
 - ii. Employment and Education: Next Committee meeting to be determined
 - iii. Female Veterans: Next Committee meeting to be determined

- b. Update on how the City of Austin could get younger Veterans involved in the community after hearing representatives from each Veteran Services department in Austin at the last meeting.
- c. Discussion, consideration, and possible action on a “One Stop Shop” for Veterans and to emulate what San Antonio will be doing for homeless Veterans and other Veterans seeking assistance.
- d. Discussion, consideration, and possible action on VBE (Veteran Business Enterprise) and how cities such as Indianapolis implemented the idea and how to get Austin involved next.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Presentation and discussion led by LTC Joanne MacGregor, Deputy Director of Government Affairs, Texas Army National Guard about the needs of Guard and Reserve members.
- b. Presentation and discussion led by Cathy Wood, Grant director from the Texas Veterans Commission about the process of the TVC Grant and the needs of the Veterans in the community.
- c. Discussion, consideration, and possible action on social media and OPSEC (Operations Security) regulations on considerations from the board when they are representing themselves in the community.
- d. Veterans Day 2013: Discussion, consideration, and possible action led by Travis County Veterans Service Officer, Olie Pope on the needs from the board to assist with this year’s Veterans Day. Meetings are held at the Travis County office on the 2nd Tuesday and Thursday of every month at noon.

7. STAFF BRIEFINGS

N/A

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioners propose agenda items for future meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the Americans 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 visit <http://www.austintexas.gov/content/commission-veterans-affairs-1>