



COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

AGENDA

Monday, November 18, 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 October 14, 2013 regular meeting.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

4. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Last updates by the Committee working groups about the top three priorities for our Veterans in the City of Austin.
 - i. Homeless Veterans: Vouchers are available for Veterans, but more landlords accepting vouchers from the Housing and Urban development-Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program are needed.
 - ii. Employment and Education: Next Committee meeting to be determined
 - iii. Female Veterans: Highest population of Female Veterans is in Texas, and the commission would like to partner with Camp Mabry Family services to better serve our female Veterans.

- b. Homeless Veterans: Discussion, consideration and possible action on how to develop a “One Stop Shop” for Homeless Veterans living in the City of Austin. Develop partnership with nonprofit organizations and seek information from San Antonio’s success for developing a Veterans Homeless Center.
- c. Discussion, consideration, and possible action on VBE (Veteran Business Enterprise) and a report on the disparity study from Jim Brennan, the director of research and resources for the Texas Coalition of Veteran Organizations

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Presentation and discussion led by Cathy Wood, Grant director from the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) about the process of the TVC Grant and the needs of the Veterans in the community.
- b. Discussing the possibility of scheduling a time and day to tour the new VA Outpatient Clinic with the Mayor and Council members.
- c. Develop a new partnership with the local Military and recruiting offices in Austin to understand the needs of our service members and to better assist them.
- d. Discussion to involve JROTC (Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps) and ROTC to participate in various community projects with the board members.
- e. Andrew Miller, Housing and Urban Development and Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program coordinator to address the council on the needs of our Homeless Veterans in Austin and the eligibility of the program.

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>