



COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

AGENDA

Tuesday February 18, 2014

**2:00 pm – 4:00 pm in City Hall Council of Chambers Room 1001
301 West Second Street
Austin, TX 78701**

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Cassaundra 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 January 21, 2014 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: Discussed future meetings and board member Chris continues to attend ECHO (Ending Community Homelessness Coalition) meetings to participate with other organizations to collaborate ideas on how to end Veteran homelessness.
 - ii. Employment and Education: Recommendations to City Council has been circulated between the committee for discussion and possibility of further progression.

- iii. Female Veterans: Schedule of committee meetings to be determined and discussion on the commission being present and active in March being a good opportunity since it is designated as Women Veterans month.
- b. Discussion, consideration and update on meeting with council members about the possibility of the council members touring the new Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic on February 25, 2014.
- c. Discussion, consideration, and possible action on progress to create a “One Stop Shop” for all Veterans.
- d. Discussion, consideration and update on the goals for the Veteran’s Commission and ways to impact the Veteran community and future accomplishments.

5. NEW BUSINESS / FOR DISCUSSION OR POSSIBLE ACTION

- a. Presentation and discussion led by Christa Nolan, Executive Director of Green Doors and how their organization assists homeless Veterans and the eligibility factors to participate in the program
- b. Presentation and discussion led by Kay Fohn, Caritas Program Manager for SSVF (Supportive Services for Veteran Families), to present a general overview of their program along with their mission and goals to ending homelessness and assisting Veterans and their families.
- c. Discussion led by Chair Cassaundra about AHRMA (Austin Human Resource Management Association) Military Women in Translation event. This event will help Military affiliated women in all phases of the job search or career enhancement process.
- d. Discussion led by Vice Chair Phillip, about the foundation of extended networks for veteran employment, education, women veterans and homelessness. Also discuss Austin zoning laws pertaining to transitional housing for veterans.

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>