



**COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
January 21, 2014**

The Commission on Veteran Affairs convened in a regular meeting on January 21, 2014 at City Hall, 301 West 2nd Street in Austin, Texas.

Chair Cassaundra Melgar-C'De Baca called the Board Meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

**Cassaundra Melgar-C'De Baca, Chair
Phillip Gutierrez, Vice Chair
Bill McLellan
Linda Yoder**

**Chris Garcia
Gary Linder
John Conley**

Staff in Attendance: Judy Wallace, Allen Bergeron, Tina Lee

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Chair Cassaundra Melgar-C'De Baca asked Commission members to review minutes from the meeting on November 18, 2013. Commissioner John Conley moved to approve the November 18, 2013 minutes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Bill McLellan. Motion passed with no objection

2. OLD BUSINESS

- Updates by the Committee working groups lead on the top three priorities for our Veterans.
 - Homeless Veterans- No new updates and committee meeting will be determined.
 - Female Veterans- Discussed what programs would suit female Veterans and that various opportunities are available.
 - Employment and Education – John Conley and Phillip Gutierrez will like to move forward with presenting the draft on employment and education efforts and what recommendations the board should agree on to council members.
- The board will update the council members about success stories of the “One Stop Shop” in other cities.
- The board decided on having meetings on the third Tuesday of every month at 2PM at City Hall.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- Jaime Nicoletti, Veterans outreach program specialist from the Vet Center presented to the board about their program and center. The Vet Center is a small part of the VA and offers readjustment counseling and services to combat related and MST victims of the Armed forces. The mobile vet center offers individual counseling sessions and becomes a mobile command center and offer resources to anyone who contacts them.

- Carrie Sconza, TVC Women Veterans Coordinator presented to the board about their program to find, educate and assist female Veterans for the state of Texas. March is designated as Women Veterans month and a 5K will be held on March 8th along with a proclamation at the Capital to honor our Female Veterans and Military members.
- Prince Humphries, Director of operations for Healing our Heroes Project informed the board about supporting military families. They offer reintegration with retreats to involve the whole family. They focus on the family unit as a whole and use diversion and recreation therapy to help Veterans and the families.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

N/A (No public hearings during this meeting)

5. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

- Paul Theobald, from the Vet center addressed the board about the furniture program for no longer homeless Veterans. He asked if there are any plans to continue this program due to lack of funding and ways the commission could continue to support it.

6. STAFF BRIEFINGS

N/A (No Staff Briefings)

7. ADJOURN: Chair Cassaundra Melgar-C'De Baca adjourned the meeting at 3:20 P.M. Without objection