

**COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS
MINUTES****REGULAR MEETING
April 15, 2014**

The Commission on Veteran Affairs convened in a regular meeting on April 15, 2014 at City Hall, 301 West 2nd Street in Austin, Texas.

Chair Cassaundra Melgar- C'D Baca called the Board Meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Cassaundra Melgar- C'De Baca, Chair	Gary Linder
Phillip Gutierrez, Vice Chair	Bill McLellan
John Conley	Linda Yoder
Chris Garcia	

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Chair Cassaundra Melgar-C'D Baca asked Commission members to review minutes from the meeting on March 18, 2014. Commissioner Bill McLellan moved to approve the March 18, 2014 minutes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chris Garcia. 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- Chris spoke at the event at fair housing talking about Veteran issues and discussed the possibility of incentives for landlords who accept housing vouchers.
 - Female Veterans- Seminar led by female entrepreneurs will take place on May 26th. Will be involved with Carry the load event on May 25th and would like to highlight female Veterans.
 - Employment and Education – All proposals went forward to the City Council and awaiting further action.
- The tour at the VA with the Mayor and Council members is scheduled to be on April 28th and the group will consist of the Mayor, two council members and 3 commissioners.
- The next step to move forward with the “one stop shop” resource center for Veterans in Austin would be to acquiring property and surveying Veterans for their top priorities and resources needed. The board has agreed to propose and recommend for a Vista to look and search for resources.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- Christopher Araugjo, Military Veteran Peer Network (MVPN) Volunteer Coordinator informed the board about the organization's mission and goals to benefit and assist Veterans. The organization provides peer support for other Veterans and is partnered with other organizations to provide services to Veterans and service members. They provide mental health support and activities to reintegrate them back into the community.
- The Commission discussed the possibility of being involved and volunteering with other organizations to provide support and have a presence with the Veteran community. Chair Cassaundra informed the board that volunteering is not a requirement to serve on the commission.
- The Commission agreed to make an appearance at organizations and events to support and assist Veterans and Service members in the community.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

N/A (No public hearings during this meeting)

5. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

N/A (No Citizen Communication)

6. STAFF BRIEFINGS

N/A (No Staff Briefings)

7. ADJOURN: Chair Cassaundra Melgar-C'D Baca adjourned the meeting at 3:18 P.M. Without objection