

**COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS  
MINUTES****REGULAR MEETING  
May 20, 2014**

The Commission on Veteran Affairs convened in a regular meeting on May 20, 2014 at City Hall, 301 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Austin, Texas.

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

Board Members in Attendance:

|                                    |               |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Cassaundra Melgar- C'D 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 April 15, 2014. Chair Cassaundra Melgar- C'De Baca moved to approve the April 15, 2014 minutes. Motion was seconded by Vice Chair Phillip Gutierrez. 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- Letters to landlords to accept housing vouchers for HUD-VASH in Austin has been submitted and waiting for review and approval from the Mayor's office.
  - Female Veterans- Female Veteran Entrepreneur program at Camp Mabry will take place on June 17, 2014 in partnership with the Texas Veterans Commission.
  - Employment and Education – Meeting with workgroup is to be determined.
- The commission considered and discussed the idea of the Texas Veterans Commission's website becoming a great resource for Veterans to seek information about the upcoming "One Stop Shop" in Austin due to its content and accessibility to the general population. More actions are to be determined at the next meeting for the development of the resource center.
- The commission agreed to keep the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month for their monthly meeting at 2PM to continue in the fall. The Commissioners with conflict to Tuesday will try to re-arrange their schedule to continue meeting with the consensus.
- Participation from the Commission for the City of Austin Memorial Day proclamation is highly encouraged and confirmation from Vice Chair- Phillip Gutierrez, Commissioners John Conley, Bill McLellan, Linda Yoder and Chris Garcia were received to be present on May 22, 2014.

**3. NEW BUSINESS**

- Christopher Mylo Villanueva, presented about Mylo Fitness which is an outdoor obstacle course gym that relates to the camaraderie Military members experience through Boot camp and assist in gaining physical fitness endurance. They offer 50% off for Veterans and free membership through volunteering with the organization by giving back. They believe their program translates real life and is physically demanding and once the course is completed you feel accomplished and confident to face any daunting task.
- Jack Crawford with the City of Austin Veterans Program presented the Veterans Resource Guide for Austin and gave a copy to all of the Commissioners. The goal will be to make an electronic format for everyone to access and the City of Austin Veterans program will maintain and update it monthly if needed.
- The Commission discussed the possibility of having banners or a welcome sign to Veterans and Military Members at the Austin Bergstrom International Airport. The Commission decided to propose a resolution to Council to have this task completed and to set up a meeting with ABIA.
- Chris Garcia volunteered to assist Mobile Loaves and Fishes but the project was set to be rescheduled for the following Friday at 2PM. The VA tour was a success and overall was a good experience for the Mayor and Councilmembers.

**4. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

N/A (No public hearings during this meeting)

**5. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

N/A (No Citizen Communication)

**6. STAFF BRIEFINGS**

- Memorial Day proclamation was scheduled for May 22, 2014 at City Hall and support from the Commission is encouraged and recommended. May 30-31, 2014 is the last Honor Flight for the Spring until the Fall and this flight is named in honor of Mayor Lee Leffingwell.

**7. ADJOURN:** Chair Cassandra Melgar-C'D Baca adjourned the meeting at 3:10 P.M. Without objection