

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

The Commission on Veteran Affairs convened in a regular meeting on July 15, 2014 at St Jones Building, 1000 E 11th St 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'De Baca, Chair	Del Kolbe
Phillip Gutierres, Vice Chair	Bill McLellan
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 June 17, 2014. Commissioner Bill McLellan moved to approve the June 17, 2014 minutes. Motion was seconded by Vice Chair Phillip Gutierres. 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 – Committee working group will schedule a meeting for new tasks and updates.
 - Female Veterans – Committee is working with Texas Veterans Commission and the community to have everyone involved in assisting and helping female Veterans.
 - Employment and Education – Recommendations were submitted to the commission on ideas for employment and education and will meet about the next step about submitting it forward to the Council.
- Commissioner Del Kolbe has successfully collaborated with the faculty, staff, administration and the Student Veterans organization to create a “One Stop Shop” in San Marcos. This provides one place to seek resources and they reserved a room for Veterans to seek assistance at Texas State. It took two years to create this “One Stop Shop” and they secured space in the student union and provided a needs assessment to see what was needed. A thought for the “One Stop Shop” was recommended by Paul Theobald from the Vet Center to secure space at Austin Community College at Highland mall.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- A representative from Parks and Recreation will be present at the next commission meeting.

- Carrie Sconza, Women Veterans Coordinator with TVC shared her experience with the National association for Women and will be meeting with Capital Metro about free bus use with VA ID. She will be speaking on behalf of the Veterans and will be also following up with the grant transportation for Veterans.
- Kerri Harmon, TexVet spoke to the commission on the mission of her organization and that they combine people and technology to bring together resources for Veterans. TexVet provides a virtual “One Stop Shop” for the state of Texas for Veterans.
- On November 11, 2014, the annual Veterans day Parade will take place and Travis County Veterans Service Officer Olie Pope has been holding his meetings every 2 weeks. Commissioners Bill McLellan and Phillip Gutierrez volunteered to attend these meetings on behalf of the Veterans Commission.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

N/A (No public hearings during this meeting)

5. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

- George Harley, Vice President of MOA introduced himself to the Commission on how he would to be active in the community and represent his organization to the City and other Veteran organizations.

6. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- Deena Estrada from the City Clerk’s Office informed the commission to only use their City emails for Commission related work and if there were any issues to contact her. She informed the commission about the transition task force and survey that was to be completed by August 4th. All Commissions will be concurrent with Council and all expirations will be December 15, 2014 and could be extended to June 20, 2015 and reapply. The memo to continue serving on the commission is due on August 22, 2014 to Deena.

7. ADJOURN: Chair Cassandra Melgar-C’D Baca adjourned the meeting at 3:23P.M. Without objection