

**COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS  
MINUTES****SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
October 23, 2014**

The Commission on Veteran Affairs convened in a special called meeting on October 23, 2014 at St Jones Building, 1000 E 11th St in Austin, Texas.

Vice Chair Phillip Gutierrez called the Board Meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Phillip Gutierrez, Vice Chair  
John Conley  
Chris Garcia

Del Kolbe  
Bill McLellan

Staff in Attendance: Tina Lee

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Vice Chair Phillip Gutierrez asked Commission members to review minutes from the meeting on September 24, 2014. Vice Chair Phillip Gutierrez moved to approve the September 24, 2014 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 – Homeless Veterans Stand down is scheduled for October 24 at the VFW from 9AM-1PM. Vice Chair Phillip Gutierrez would like to seek options for a homestead exemption for taxes for accepting housing vouchers for the Homeless Veterans population.
  - Female Veterans – Camp Mabry will be hosting a Women Veterans Resource Event for housing and employment on November 8<sup>th</sup> from 9-2PM in Building 8.
  - Employment and Education – John Conley informed the commission on HEB hiring Veterans and if there is a way for the Veterans Commission to recognize their efforts.
- In the last meeting, a need for a banner was needed for the Veteran's Day parade and this will be updated at the next Veteran's Day meeting.

**3. NEW BUSINESS**

- Jim Brenan from the Texas Coalition of Veteran Organizations informed the board that they are advocating with Texas Veterans and in collaboration with nonprofit organizations they will bring up certain legislative issues to the State. Their legislative actions will concern Hazelwood to raising age limits and adjusting the guidelines. Licensing for Veterans to have their Military service translate to receiving a license to use as a civilian. Absentee voting and fund for

Veterans assistance will also be an issue they will discuss for change or alteration. Also, they will also discuss Veteran Court, Women Veterans, and homeless Veterans.

- Eugene Edwards from Goodwill informed the board about their mission services ranging from education to employment. They will like the Commission to pass the word around of what Goodwill offers to Veterans to raise awareness. They offer programs such as Operation Good Jobs, job readiness and occupational training, community referrals and they are now in partner with Front steps, Caritas, and Salvation army for the SSVF program for homeless Veterans.

**4. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

N/A (No public hearings during this meeting)

**5. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

N/A

**6. STAFF BRIEFINGS**

- Tina Lee informed the commission about joining the City in attending to their annual Veterans Appreciation luncheon as the Commission of Veteran Affairs.

**7. ADJOURN:** Vice Chair Phillip Gutierrez adjourned the meeting at 4:28PM. Without objection