

**COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS
MINUTES****REGULAR MEETING
March 18, 2015**

The Commission on Veteran Affairs convened in a regular meeting on March 18, 2015 at City Hall, Council Chambers, located on 301 West 2nd Street in Austin, Texas.

Chair Phillip Gutierres called the Board Meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Phillip Gutierres, Chair
Del Kolbe, Vice Chair
Michael Denton

Bill McLellan
David Thomas

Staff in Attendance: Tina Lee, Allen Bergeron

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Chair Phillip Gutierres asked Commission members to review minutes from the regular meeting on February 18, 2015. Chair Phillip Gutierres moved to approve the last meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Bill McLellan. Motion passed with no objection.

2. OLD BUSINESS

- Due to the limited amount of appointed commissioners, there have not been any new updates from the working groups regarding the top three priorities for our Veterans.
 - Homeless Veterans
 - Female Veterans
 - Employment and Education
- The commissioners agreed to support the homeless task groups in the goal of having more landlords participate in accepting HUD-VASH vouchers. They also agreed on the possibility of have an official letter from the City asking for their support in ending Veteran Homelessness. Tax exemptions must be approved through legislative action at the State.
- The Veterans Resource Center's ideal location would be near a metro/bus route for those needing transportation and to have a partnership with Federal, State, County, and nonprofits. Having one central location for Veterans to go will assist and fulfill the needs of Veterans needing the support with benefits, housing, and resources.
- The Veterans commission drafted up council recommendations regarding the City to support the idea of the One Stop Shop Center and to furnish the center and allocate funds to obtain the property. Vice Chair Del Kolbe moved to accept the Council recommendations and Commissioner David Thomas seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously approved with no objections.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- Pia Villalon from Texas Center point presented to the commission regarding veteran services and resources from their organization. Texas Center Point is a nonprofit organization who serves high risk Veterans and their families. They also assist with job placement and life skills and even provide financial assistance to those eligible. The Veterans program is funded through the TVC Fund for Veterans Assistance and serves as a “one stop shop” center for Veterans seeking assistance. They offer case management, closet for dress for success and gas and bus passes to those in need of transportation services.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

N/A (No public hearings during this meeting)

5. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

N/A (No Citizen Communication during this meeting)

6. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- The current commission members must re-apply to be part of the commission if they are interested in continuing their service and use their official city emails for Veteran Commission business.

7. ADJOURN: Phillip Gutierrez adjourned the meeting at 2:42 PM. Without objection