

**COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS
MINUTES****REGULAR MEETING
April 15, 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 Gutierrez called the Board Meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Phillip Gutierrez, Chair
Del Kolbe, Vice Chair
Michael Denton

Bill McLellan
Nicolas Van Zandt

Staff in Attendance: Tina Lee, Allen Bergeron, Jeff Burton

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

2. 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. There should be a limit of 3-4 per working group and until the 10-1 transition they will continue to discuss the importance of these priorities at the meeting till the working groups meet.
 - Homeless Veterans
 - Female Veterans
 - Employment and Education
- New Commissioner Nick Van Zandt, spent ten years in the Army and left as a Captain. Spent most of his career in strategic intelligence in DC and assisted with the Mayor's campaign after leaving the service. He is looking forward to making a difference with the Veteran's lives within Austin as a newly appointed commissioner
- Veteran's Park is slated to be completed in front of the American Legion near Town Lake and they are projected to move the three monuments from storage to be on displayed at this location. It has been discussed that this location is not the idea space for the City of Austin Veteran's Park and would like to see this park to be in a location with high visibility. It would be ideal to have parking available for those visiting the park and to have the five branches of service and seals to be present similar to the parks in San Marcos, Cedar Park and Georgetown. We will have Veterans Park added to the next agenda for discussion to make this park special to memorialize and honor all Veterans who have served in the US Military.

- At the last meeting, the commission discussed the possibility of moving the Veteran's Commission meetings to quarterly. Vice Chair Del Kolbe made a motion to amend the bylaws to reflect the meetings to be moved to quarterly instead of monthly. Commissioner Michael Denton seconded the motion and the motion was passed and approved unanimously.

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

- Camp Mabry's American Heroes Weekend will take place with Mayor Adler presenting a proclamation at noon on April 18th. They will be recognizing first responders and the Military and have approximately 16,000 people present.
- The Memorial Day proclamation will take place at City hall on May 21st at 10AM to honor a local Military service member killed in action.
- The annual report is due on May 31st and to have commissioners interested in reapplying to submit their application to the City Clerk's office

7. ADJOURN: Phillip Gutierrez adjourned the meeting at 2:41 PM. Without objection