

**COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS
MINUTES****REGULAR MEETING
September 16, 2015**

The Commission on Veteran Affairs convened in a regular meeting on September 16, 2015 at One Texas Center Building, Conference Room 325, located on 505 Barton Springs Rd in Austin, Texas.

Chair Jason Denny called the Board Meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Jason Denny – Chair - CM Kitchen
Pete Salazar – Vice Chair - CM Pool
Douglas O’Connell – CM Gallo
Phillip Gutierrez – CM Troxclair

George Bailey Harrington – MPT Tovo
David Thomas – CM Houston
Guillermo Villarreal – CM Renteria
Nicholas Van Zandt – Mayor Adler

Staff in Attendance: Allen Bergeron

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Chair Jason Denny asked Commission members to review minutes from the regular meeting on August 26, 2015. Commissioner Dave Thomas moved to approve the last meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Vice Chair Pete Salazar. Motion passed with no objection.

2. OLD BUSINESS

- The former commissioners of the Veterans Commission developed three work groups that concentrated on the top three priorities that Veterans face. With a minimum of three commissioners per group they have decided to continue concentrating on the following work groups
 - Homeless Veterans : Phillip Gutierrez, David Thomas, Jason Denny
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 - Female Veterans:
 - Employment/Transitioning Veterans/Education: Nick Van Zandt, Pete Salazar, and George Harrington.
- Phillip Gutierrez and Guillermo Villarreal have been appointed to lead the park committee for Veterans Park. They will be dedicated to discussing and researching The City of Austin Veterans Park and give an update at the next meeting.
- Commissioner Nick, Pete and Bailey met and discussed the possibility of the Veterans Resource Center at ACC. Nick contacted them and has not heard back from them and will follow up again.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- Commissioner Pete Salazar was nominated for the role of the Vice Chair and the Commission approved and voted unanimously to have Pete Salazar as the new vice Chair of the Veterans Commission.

- The meeting for the Veteran's commission will be held monthly with the time change of 6:30PM starting in November.
- The Commissioners were informed that they are welcome to walk with the City during the Veteran's Day Parade on November 11th.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

N/A (No public hearings during this meeting)

- **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

N/A (No Citizen Communication during this meeting)

STAFF BRIEFINGS

- The City of Austin will hold its annual appreciation luncheon on November 10th at the Palmer Events center and the commissioners are invited to attend and represent the City. Note: this is only open for the City of Austin Employees and Retirees who served in the Military.
- November 11th, Travis Co and the City of Austin will host its annual Veteran's Day parade on the Ann Richards Bridge.
- September 17th, the Mayor will declare the City of Austin as a Purple Heart City and designate IH 35 as a Purple Heart trail.
- October 23, 2015 is the annual Homeless stand down and if anyone is interested in attending, it will be located at the VFW Post on Alpine Dr. from 9 – 12PM.

ADJOURN: Jason Denny adjourned the meeting at 7:10 PM. Without objection