

COMMISSION ON VETERAN AFFAIRS MEETING MINUTES



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REGULAR MEETING
August 17, 2016

The Commission on Veteran Affairs convened in a regular meeting on August 17, 2016 at the ACC Veterans Resource Center located on 6001 Airport Blvd, Austin Texas 78752.

Chair Jason Denny called the Board Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Jason Denny - Chair	Adrenne Mendoza
Pete Salazar – Vice Chair	Molly Potter
Doug O’Connell	Pete Phillips
Phillip Gutierres	

Staff in Attendance: Allen Bergeron, Tina Lee

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Chair Jason Denny asked the Commission members to review the minutes from the regular meeting on July 20, 2016. Commissioner Pete Salazar made a motion to approve the July meeting minutes and Commissioner Molly Potter seconded the motion to approve the minutes. Motion passed with no objection.

2. OLD BUSINESS

- The 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 Gutierres, David Thomas, Jason Denny
 - Austin has reached its goal of functional zero
 - To hear more from ECHO
 - Female Veterans: Molly Potter and Adrenne Mendoza
 - In the planning stage of an Austin Roll Call in the time frame set for January – February. They are looking for a possible venue to host this event.
 - There is a Texas Homeless network conference in September at the Omni hotel.
 - Employment/Transitioning Veterans/Education: Pete Salazar, and George Harrington.
 - No updates

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- Preston Petty from ECHO provided the metrics and data regarding rehousing homeless Veterans here in the City of Austin. There is a total of 189-255 Veterans that requested for assistance and since August, it has taken less than 90 days to house our Veterans. In the 2015 point in time count, there were 234 Veterans and the City of Austin has met its functional zero of ending homeless veterans living in Austin. (Back up included)
- Updates regarding the Veterans Plaza is pending with the City of Austin Parks and Recreation department. The Commission will reach out to the supervisor heading this initiative to update the commission at the next meeting.
- The commission plans revisit the resolution of the Veteran's one stop shop and their plan to implement this initiative for the City of Austin.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- The commission had voted to meet bi-monthly on the third Thursday of the month at 7:00PM. Commissioner Doug O'Connell made a motion to implement this new schedule for the future meetings and Commissioner Adrenne Mendoza has seconded the motion to approve the schedule change. There were no objections and the next meeting is to be scheduled for October 20th at 1900.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

N/A (No public hearings during this meeting)

5. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

- Eric Gerber from Meals on Wheels introduced himself and that he is working with Commissioner Adrenne Mendoza. He has previously worked with the American GI forum and currently in the Army National Guard as a chaplain.
- Romero Hinojosa introduced himself to the commission and that he was interested in becoming a part of the Veterans Commission.

STAFF BRIEFINGS

- The first Texas Women Veterans Flight is scheduled for October 7-8th. We are still seeking Women Veterans who served in the timeframe of WWII, Korea, and Viet Nam to be honored and selected to join us.
- The City of Austin has selected its first interns to participate in Fleet services. Austin Energy is the next department to participate in the internship program and then CTM (Communications Technology Management).
- Veterans Day Parade is scheduled on November 11 (Friday) at 8AM to have the commissioners to participate in the parade and get involved. Those interested should meet on the Ann Richards Bridge.
- On Friday, Secretary Julian Castro will be making an announcement at City Hall with Mayor Steve Adler on the City of Austin completed its mission on ending homeless Veterans.

ADJOURN: Jason Denny adjourned the meeting at 7:29 PM. Without objection