

## COMMISSION ON VETERAN AFFAIRS MEETING MINUTES



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**REGULAR MEETING**  
**April 19, 2017**

The Commission on Veteran Affairs convened in a regular meeting on April 19, 2017 at City Hall located on 301 W 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Austin Texas 78701.

Chair Jason Denny called the Board Meeting to order at 6:06p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Jason Denny - Chair	Josephine Hinds
Pete Salazar – Vice Chair	Ramiro Hinojosa
Chris Ehlinger	Molly Potter
Phillip Gutierrez	David Thomas
Zach Goldstein	Guillermo Villarreal

Staff in Attendance: Karen Haywood, Allen Bergeron, Tina Lee

#### 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Chair Jason Denny asked the Commission members to review the minutes from the special called meeting on February 15, 2017. Vice Chair Pete Salazar made a motion to approve the February meeting minutes and Commissioner Dave Thomas seconded the motion to approve the minutes. Motion passed with no objection.

#### 2. NEW BUSINESS

- Mayor Steve Adler attended the meeting to discuss and listen to the Veteran Commissioner's feedback regarding the Veteran Business Enterprise.
  - Veronica, Director of SMBR informed the Commission that the resolution is in place and was brought to City Council. The Purchasing and Contracting office is present today to discuss and provide recommendations.
  - Commissioner Villarreal: Recommends the percentage to be increased and that 30% is too low.
  - Jim Brennan: The disability percentage rate has never been an issue when being passed federally and within the State. No metric to have the disability rating increased more than 50% is not needed and that 20-30% is the general rating required for the program.
  - Veronica: Will bring it forward and is a budget need for SMBR
  - Mayor Adler: Budget and Funding is critical this year and the budget forecast is prepared by the City Manager and to approach her or the Quality of Life Commission. Lobby the Council Members to bring the action forward.

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- Time frame: May – June for VBE and advocate actively like other commissions to make a difference on behalf of the community.
- Rolando, Contracting Office, USAF veteran informs us that procurement is in regards to construction services and purchasing is in regards to goods and services. Make recommendation to Mayor and Council and look at experience in permits, stakeholders and past projects.
- Commissioner Villarreal: Concerned with continuity and that he was notified at the meeting of what happened to the money used for the disparity study and that the commission was not informed. Data was collected but it was not being used and they were requesting more funds to study more and that delays are unacceptable.
- Veronica: The Disparity study is expensive but a standard practice analytics. Did not guide how the program was enacted and is looking at other cities and entities. The implementation of the VBE is a budget need and she was upfront about how this program needed to be placed.
- Jim Brennan: The VBE should not impact budget and that commitment from the City is questionable for why this delay is present. It has been 12 years for the VBE to be placed into practice and this would benefit everyone and the delay is unacceptable.
- Chair Jason Denny requested for a commissioner to make a motion regarding the VBE
  - Vice Chair Pete Salazar requested to add the VBE into the budget resolution for the Commission on Veteran Affairs. David Thomas seconded and the motion passed with no objections. Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the resolution as a recommendation and Vice Chair Pete Salazar seconded. The motion was pass with no objections.
- Commissioner Thomas informed the commission that the Council approved to change the street from Hamilton Ave to Richard Overton Ave in honor of his 111<sup>th</sup> birthday. The Mayor and CM Houston are invited to Overton's birthday and the sign is a work in progress. Transportation department is informing the street residents and will put it up on May 10<sup>th</sup>. There will be a block party celebrating his birthday at 3PM on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

### 3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

N/A (No public hearings during this meeting)

### 4 CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Jim Brennan, Legislature director for Veterans Coalition informed the round table that the initiative on a federal level started in 2006 and successful at the state level in 2013 but the City has still been pending. The history of the initiative of the Veteran Business Enterprise for the City of Austin began in 2012. Jim would like to know why this initiative is not implemented after it was addressed at the Council and SMBR Director's office.

### STAFF BRIEFINGS

- Memorial Day Ceremony at City Hall on May 18<sup>th</sup> honoring Navy Seal Danny Dietz as he was portrayed in the movie Lone Survivor.
- City of Austin Veterans Program hosting its second Veteran Benefits Symposium on May 22 at the Learning Research Center from 1-4PM.

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**ADJOURN:** Jason Denny adjourned the meeting at 7:50PM. Without objection