



COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

AGENDA

Wednesday, August 16, 2017

**7:00 pm in City Hall Board and Commissions Room 1001
301 West Second Street
Austin, TX 78701**

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Jason Denny – Chair
Pete Salazar – Vice Chair
Chris Ehlinger
Phillip Gutierrez
Zach Goldstein
Josephine Hinds

Ramiro Hinojosa
Manuel Jimenez
Adrenne Mendoza
Molly Potter
David Thomas

CALL TO ORDER

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Citizens signed up prior to the meeting being called to order will each be allowed a three-minute allotment to address their concerns regarding items not posted on the agenda.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Consider approval of the minutes from the Commission on Veterans Affairs special called meeting on May 24, 2017.

3. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Discussion and possible action regarding the working groups.
- b. Veteran Business Enterprise (VBE) discussion and updates (report from Vice Chairman Salazar)
- c. Veterans Resource Center (One Stop Shop initiative) [update from Chairman Denny regarding resolution passed by Council to create a "business plan" for direction of creating a Veterans Resource Center]
- d. Veterans Plaza (discussion and updates regarding Veterans Plaza from City Staff and/or Parks Department)
- e. Update on Women's Roll call event

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Status and update regarding Veteran Courts in Travis County by Jolene Grajczyk the Veterans Court Administrator
- b. Status update regarding the discussion that was held at the MBE/WBE Small Business Enterprise Procurement Program Advisory Committee regarding the Veteran Business Enterprise (VBE) and VBE update from Purchasing Officer James Scarboro
- c. Discussion regarding the construction of a facility that would promote healing among Veterans of war and their families by Stephen Sonnenberg, Bill Bednar, and Rowena Dasch.
- d. Discussion and presentation by Scott Morrison on Project Winter Comfort. This is a community project where they will collect, assemble and distribute needed items to Homeless Veterans and Civilians in the Central Texas area prior to winter.
- e. Discussion and presentation by Glenn Towery on creating an Veterans Art Festival and to seek the support and collaboration with our committee, the cultural Affairs Department of the City of Austin, Austin Art Commission, and Austin city museums and cultural centers.
- f. Discussion of what are our next "working groups"
- g. Discussion and update regarding the possibility of adding a USO at Austin Bergstrom International Airport.

5. STAFF UPDATES

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice at least 2 days (48 Hours) before the meeting date.

Please call Allen Bergeron at the Veterans Program Department at 512-974-3459 or Allen.Bergeron@austintexas.gov for additional information; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711.

For more information on the Veterans Commission, please contact Tina Lee at 512-974-3306 or visit <http://www.austintexas.gov/content/commission-veterans-affairs-1>