

COMMISSION ON VETERAN AFFAIRS MEETING MINUTES



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**REGULAR MEETING
July 18, 2018**

The Commission on Veteran Affairs convened in a regular meeting on July 18, 2018 at Austin City Hall room 1029 located on 301 West 2nd Street, Austin Texas 78701

Chair Jason Denny called the Board Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Jason Denny - Chair
Pete Salazar- Vice Chair
Daarel Burnette
Zach Goldstein

Phillip Gutierrez
Josephine Hinds
Manuel Jimenez
Adrenne Mendoza

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Chair Denny asked the Commission members to review the minutes from the special called meeting on June 3, 2018. Commissioner Manuel Jimenez made a motion to approve the June meeting minutes and Vice Chair Pete Salazar seconded the motion. Motion passed with no objection.

2. BUSINESS

- Chair Denny addressed the Commission regarding their feedback/input for the annual report. He will add the Veterans Resource center, SDVBE, and Veterans Park. Workgroups consist of VRC, SDVBE, the Park, and Veterans Court as accomplishments.
- Chair Denny updated the commission on Commissioner Potter's report of the Veteran Resource center workgroup.
 - She met with Combined Arms on June 18 and the workgroup has not met since the budget recommendations were submitted. She is actively collecting letters of support from local Veteran Service officers and organizations in support of the budget resolution recommendations made at the special called meeting.
- Deanne Williams updated the commission on the survey report of Veterans Park on Veterans Drive. Informed them of the design and submit drawing for permit reviews with construction to begin next summer and be finished in winter 2019.
- Glenn Towery updated the commission on the status of AFAFEST and revealed the official logo. The Commissioners will take action at the next meeting to endorse a letter of support for the event.

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- DeLisa Russell provided information and best practices on the Waco's Heart of Texas Veterans one Stop and is looking forward to the City of Austin opening their own Veteran Resource Center.
- Jim Darwin from the Veterans Day Committee informed the commission on the stance of the Confederate flag being or not being in the parade. Another group is interested in spearheading the Veterans Day parade and the board is open to feedback and suggestions. A few members of city council have informed the commissioners that they will not support the parade if any symbol of the confederacy is represented.

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- N/A (No public hearings during this meeting)

4. STAFF UPDATES

- Allen Bergeron updated the commissioners regarding the new political activity. Space is allocated for the Veteran's Resource Center on Ben White. Mayor Steve Adler is passionate on the prevent suicide among services members, veterans and their families. A group of advocates will meet and discuss how to fix this issue.

5. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

- Richard and Sylvia Troxclair informed the commissioners of House the Homeless and Veterans in Action group.
- Doris Williams from ATX Vets read her stance on the confederate flag (back up)
- Bryan Register informed the commissioners on his stance of the confederacy
- Christopher Pitchie informed the commissioners on his stance of the confederacy and flag in the parade
- Collin Whites informed the commissioners on his stance of the confederacy and flag in the parade
- Nick Dement informed the commissioners on his stance of the confederacy
- Glenda McKinney informed the commissioners on her stance of the confederacy
- Joe Dianovich, WWII veteran informed the commissioners on his thoughts of the confederacy and people.

ADJOURN: Jason Denny adjourned the meeting at 8:51 PM. Without objection