

COMMISSION ON VETERAN AFFAIRS MEETING MINUTES



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REGULAR MEETING
September 19, 2018

The Commission on Veteran Affairs convened in a regular meeting on September 19, 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
Molly Potter

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 regular meeting on July 18, 2018. Commissioner Tres Hinds made a motion to approve the meeting minutes and Commissioner Daarel Burnette seconded the motion. Motion passed with no objection.

2. BUSINESS

- Vote to approve the letter of recommendation for Glenn Towery for the Austin Veterans Festival. Commissioner Potter made a motion to approve the commission's endorsement and Vice Chair Salazar seconded. The motion was passed with no objection.
- The discussion on the Municipal Veterans Court has been moved to the next meeting
- Brie Franco with the City of Austin Intergovernmental Relations office spoke and updated the commissioners on the most recent Texas Legislatures and overview of the changes.
- Carrie Sconza with TexVet briefed the commission on the organization's mission and how they are an advocacy for veterans and a state program that provides metrics and resources.
- In discussion of the Mayor's initiative on ending veteran suicide, the commissioners are encouraged to connect with their council member regarding the initiative and to update back at the next meeting on the creation of a town hall to raise awareness.

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3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

4. STAFF UPDATES

- The Veterans Resource Center budget was not brought forward by council and will need to determine the next steps. HFD – FY19 will conduct a needs assessment and issue a RFQ if the City manager wants to move forward.

5. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

- Rhonda Patrick with the Sobering Center briefed the commission on the new program in Austin that helps those who are intoxicated, jailed, and in partnership with the VA.
- Danny Katona informed the commissioners regarding VetFest on November 17 and to advocate the event.

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