

COMMISSION ON VETERAN AFFAIRS MEETING MINUTES



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**REGULAR MEETING
July 17, 2019**

The Commission on Veteran Affairs convened in a regular meeting on July 17, 2019 at One Texas Center located on 505 Barton Springs Rd 13th Floor, Austin Texas 78704

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

Board Members in Attendance:

Jason Denny - Chair	Chris Ehlinger
Pete Salazar- Vice Chair	Adrenne Mendoza
Alfred Bigham	Manuel Jimenez
Elisabeth Collura – Rosenberg	Thomas Just
	Doris Williams

Staff in Attendance: Allen Bergeron, Tina Lee

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Chair Denny asked the Commission members to review the minutes from the regular meeting on May 15, 2019. With the appropriate changes of changing the military status of Commissioner Liz Collura-Rosenberg and the location of the meeting, Commissioner Chris Ehlinger, made a motion to approve the meeting minutes and Commissioner Liz Collura-Rosenberg seconded the motion. Motion passed with no objection.

2. BUSINESS

- Commissioner Jimenez updated the commission on the Municipal Veterans Court and that there is currently no jurisdiction. Request for resolution to send to council to expand the jurisdiction. Commissioner Jimenez made a motion to draft and approve a resolution in relation to the development of a municipal veteran's court to council and the motion was approved with no objections.
- Texas Veterans Commission, Jesus Simental updated and reviewed all the veteran benefit programs available and the process to file and get a disability claim approved. He informed the commission about pension and Aid and attendance and any questions the commission had.
- Annual Report: List goals and complete as a group to be added as an amendment to the next meeting in September.
 - Veterans Plaza – on Vic Mathias Shores
 - Expand Career Skills Program to other Military bases. Have TAP send information to those who move to Austin.

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- Promote idea to U.S Congress for a federal program that requires each base to send information of transitioning veterans to every city they are going.
- Veterans Park will begin construction in September
- AVAfest conduit towards mental health

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

4. STAFF UPDATES

- Veteran Resource Center Needs Assessment Update: Third town hall meetings scheduled
- Special Called meeting: Possible preview of Need's assessment to Commission prior to presentation to council?
- Citizen Engagement board
- August 16th SAMHSA Mental Health Summit

5. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

- Jim Brennan: Updated the commission on the most recent legislative bills passed related to veterans issues. Discussed HB 696, SB 822, SB 1091, HB1351, HB2530 and SB 2104.

ADJOURN: Jason Denny adjourned the meeting at 8:47 PM. Without objection