



COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING
September 15, 2021**

The Commission on Veteran Affairs convened in a Regular Meeting on September 15, 2021 at the City of Austin Planning and Development Center, 6310 Wilhelmina Delco Drive, Austin, Texas 78752.

Chair Manuel Jimenez called the Board Meeting to order at 7:07 PM.

Board Members in Attendance:

Manuel Jimenez - Chair	Jason Denny
Adrenne Mendoza - Vice Chair	Kevin A. Lenau
Alfred Bingham	Pete A. Salazar
Jose Carrasco	

Staff in Attendance: Jonathan Babiak, Business Process Consultant, Office of Civil Rights

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

None

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Jimenez asked the Commission members to review the minutes from the regular called meeting on May 19, 2021. Commissioner Salazar made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, and Commissioner Bingham seconded the motion. Motion passed with no objection on a vote of 7-0.

2. OLD BUSINESS

- a) Update from Chair Jimenez as the Liaison for the Commission on the newly developed Winter Review Task Force Group. (Sponsors: Manuel Jimenez, Adrenne Mendoza)

Chair Jimenez provided an update, and the Commission discussed this item. The Commission took no action on this item.

- b) Discussion and possible action on the process for the City of Austin to formally identify veterans in encampments. (Sponsors: Pete Salazar, Manuel Jimenez)

The Commission discussed this item. The Commission took no action on this item.

- c) Discussion on the recommendation to create a Department of Veterans and Military Affairs. (Sponsors: Thomas Just, Jason Denny)

The Commission discussed this item. The Commission took no action on this item.

COMMISSION ON VETERAN AFFAIRS MEETING MINUTES

3. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Discussion and possible action regarding AVAFest by Glenn Towery. (Sponsors: Pete Salazar, Manuel Jimenez, Elisabeth Collura-Rosenberg)

The Commission discussed this item. The Commission took no action on this item.

- b) Discussion and possible action on the goals and objectives for July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. (Sponsors: Manuel Jimenez, Adrenne Mendoza)

The Commission discussed this item. The Commission adopted the goals listed below on a motion by Commissioner Salazar, second by Commissioner Denny. Motion passed with no objection on a vote of 7-0.

- Identifying any veteran encampments and number of homeless veterans located in the City of Austin
- Create and fund a Veterans Office
- Organize a task force to work with other commissions to organize a Veterans Festival

- c) Discussion and possible action to approve the 2022 meeting schedule. (Sponsors: Manuel Jimenez, Adrenne Mendoza)

The Commission approved the following meeting schedule (monthly every third Wednesday) on a motion by Commissioner Salazar, second by Commissioner Bingham. Motion passed with no objection on a vote of 7-0.

January 19; February 16; March 16; April 20; May 18; June 15; July 20; August 17; September 21; October 19; November 16; and December 21

4. STAFF UPDATES

None.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Commission discussed the name change from “Veterans Pocket Park” to “Veterans Park.” Chair Jimenez will reach out to the Parks Department.

ADJOURN: Chair Jimenez adjourned the meeting at 8:25 PM on unanimous consent.