



**REGULAR MEETING of the
COMMISSION ON VETERAN AFFAIRS
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, November 15, 2023
7:00 PM – Adjournment**

**City of Austin Permitting & Development Center
6310 Wilhelmina Delco Dr., Room 1402
Austin, TX 78752**

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS:

P - Christopher “Cam” Wilson, Chair
A - Kevin Lenau, Vice Chair
V - William Dahlstrom
V - Maria Brown-Spence
P - Armando Gonzales
A - Curtis Wyman

V - Amber Schleuning
V - Patrick Bissett
A - Mark Balch
Vacant – D6
Vacant – D9

P – In person attendance
V – Virtual attendance
A – Absent

Staff Attendance
Damian Pantoja
Jesus Simental

CALL TO ORDER

Start: 7:13 PM

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION – GENERAL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. The minutes from the meeting of 10/18/2023 were approved on Co-chair, Kevin Lenau motion, Patrick Bissett second on a 7-0 vote. C. Wilson and M. Brown-Spence were absent.

STAFF BRIEFINGS

2. Staff briefing regarding attendance sign in requirements, provided update on Recommendation 20230719-006, and requirements to create and approve annual meeting schedule for 2024. The presentation was made by Damian Pantoja, Community Engagement Specialist, Office of Civil Rights.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. Discussion of the results of the meeting by Co-Chair Kevin Lenau to establish requirements for the Deputy City Manager position. Position was elevated from Assistant City Manager to Deputy City Manager. This individual would assume the City Manager role in the absence of the City Manager. Many of the commissioners in attendance believe that the individual needs to be an expert in their field but that is an unrealistic expectation. Kevin's input was along the lines of looking for someone who can build a relationship in the state for state funding because all of these quality of life programs all have state funding available.
4. Follow up from last meeting, continued discussion on update on working group to research nonprofits that service veterans of Austin and Travis County and make goals of what we will do with that list.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

5. Discussion on the possibility of relocating Veteran Commission meeting to allow for easier accessibility for veterans wanting to attend the meeting. Some of the locations that are being considered included YMCA, closest to downtown, this option will be explored by Kevin Lenau, other options include Central Library and Austin Energy as a last resort. The feasibility of using the Central Library option will be explored by staff liaison, Jesus Simental as well as available dates and times for Austin Energy.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

END: 7:55 PM

Co-Chair K. Lenau made the motion to adjourn. A. Gonzales second the motion. Pass unanimously 7 – 0. C. Wilson and M. Brown-Spence were absent.

The minutes were approved at the 11/15/2023 meeting on Commissioner Patrick Bissett motion, second by Armando Gonzales on a 6-0 vote. C. Wyman, M. Balch, and Kevin Lenau were absent.

