



**COMMISSION ON VETERAN AFFAIRS
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, Sep 18, 2024**

The COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS convened in a REGULAR Meeting on WEDNESDAY, September 18, 2024, at the City of Austin Permitting & Development Center at 6310 Wilhelmina Delco Dr, Austin, TX 78752.

Chair MICHAEL MCINERNEY called the COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS MEETING to order at 7:05pm CST.

**Commissioners in Attendance:
Michael Mcinerney (Chair)**

**Commissioners in Attendance Remotely:
Patrick Bissett
Christopher Wilson
Curtis Wyman
Amber Schleuning
William Dahlstrom**

**Commissioners Absent:
Maria Brown-Spence
Philip Reichert
Armando Gonzales
Mark Balch**

**Staff in Attendance:
Beverly Davis – Office of Civil Rights
Jesus Simental – Veterans Administrator, Office of Civil Rights**

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION – GENERAL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. The minutes from the meeting of 9/18/2024 were approved on Chair Michael Mcinerney's motion, second by Patrick Bissett on a 6-0 vote. Commissioners Maria Brown-Spence, Philip Reichert, Armando Gonzales, and Mark Balch were absent.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. Presentation by Paul Bernal and Adrian Luna from the [American GI Forum](#) National Veterans Outreach Program. The AGIF is a congressionally chartered Hispanic veterans and civil rights organization founded in 1948.
 - a. The NVOP currently runs a 90-room facility in San Antonio to provide housing, counseling, and employment assistance to homeless veterans. This facility is almost entirely supported with private donations, and grants from the State and Federal government.
 - b. Mr. Bernal discussed the AGIF NVOP's plans to open a similar facility in Austin.
 - c. Ms. Luna discussed the AGIF NVOP's current activities in Austin providing representatives to support homeless and disabled veterans
3. Presentation by Gustavo Ramirez, a student Veteran at the University of Texas at Austin provided a statement and answered questions about support for student veterans in Austin.
4. Presenter Strider Johnson from St Edward's University was a no show but agreed to forward areas of possible support of veteran students at St Edwards University.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

5. Discussed nominating primary and secondary JIC representatives and discussing and voting for the 2025 annual board schedule.

ADJOURNMENT

END: 7:53 PM

3. Chair M. Mcinerney made the motion to adjourn, P. Bissett second the motion. Pass unanimously 6-0. Commissioners Maria Brown-Spence, Philip Reichert, Armando Gonzales, Mark Balch were absent.

The minutes were approved at the 16 Oct 2024 meeting on Chair Michael Mcinerney's motion, Armando Gonzales second on a 10-0 vote, Maria Brown-Spence was absent.