

COMMISSION ON VETERAN AFFAIRS MEETING MINUTES



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REGULAR MEETING October 18, 2017

The Commission on Veteran Affairs convened in a regular meeting on October 18, 2017 at City Hall located on 301 W 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 Salzar- Vice Chair
Chris Ehlinger
Zach Goldstein
Phillip Gutierrez

Josephine Hinds
Ramiro Hinojosa
Manuel Jimenez
David Thomas

Staff in Attendance: Sylba Everett, Allen Bergeron, Tina Lee

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Chair Jason Denny asked the Commission members to review the minutes from the Regular meeting on August 16, 2017. Vice Chair Pete Salazar made a motion to approve the October meeting minutes and Josephine seconded the motion. Motion passed with no objection.

2. BUSINESS

- Kelly Land from Combined Arms is a collaborative system in Houston and serves the nine surrounding counties of Houston. The started with the City of Houston and the Lone Star Veteran Affairs and used the USC school of social work. The mission was the accelerate impact of veterans and create a system to collaborate and become efficient. 1300 Sq. Feet location at the center of the town with access to bus, university and VA. They are selected as one of the best organization to house veterans. They work with KPNG and develop a score card to track how long organizations respond and the veteran's response/reviews. There is no wrong door approach to get veterans assessed with accountability. Global expansion is the economic development policy where they inform and provide information.
 - In 2003, there were performance gaps and information
 - From 2003 – 2017 was different and brought in high investment jobs with the same policy of 15 years. Unemployment was much lower, equity was better and were able to understand economic conditions.
 - 32 incentive agreements, 239% return on investment

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- Council resolutions, ordinances to achieve prosperity and compliance measures. Council leverage incentive policy, outline host community benefits
 - Ch 380 created one or more programs to promote state and local eco-development loans / grants to connect to economic needs.
 - Federal money was used to work on some policies and many potential policies.
 - The grant provide film/videogame music
 - Hosted sessions on what business needs are
 - Saw the need for blue collar jobs and identify hindrance
 - Timeline (Affordability/equity) in December 2017 to provide information to comeback after consultant.
- Ray Hernandez is the assigned project manager for the Veterans Park.
 - Background / Consultant for design
 - City of Austin will provide the funds
 - Parks and recreation will manage and direct veterans park
 - Stakeholders will be informed, consulted and be provided input, design workshop and facilitate design
 - Consultant will design and collaborate
 - Waterloo park will consist of the Korean, Vietnam and Beirut monuments
 - Connected to American Legion Post 76t
 - Gathered budget
 - Location approved? Size and location is not
 - Must be suitable by the Veterans commission
 - Agreement for site of memorials is moved
 - Auditorium shores will be a grandeur choice for a Veterans Park
 - 1 or 2 more monument spaces
 - 32 responses were posted online and will be open till Friday
 - Steps will include the process, draft, and beginning stages
 - The concept will be developed after the survey closes
 - End of November will have the concept and go back to the stakeholders in December
 - Drawback includes the City permit (4-9 months), have the design/ completed in June 2018. Contact anytime and check with Ricardo Soliz

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

N/A (No public hearings during this meeting)

4. STAFF UPDATES

- Veterans Resource Center update since the resolution
 - Memo was sent to 46 service providers and ten responded
 - Part time staff and meeting with key stake holders
 - Office of real estate is looking in their current inventory or quote
 - CTM, CPIO, APH, Website – how to move forward and report to council in December
 - Council asked for a 6 month window (June – December)
 - Business plan due in December

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- Collaborative process and want list of those interested
- Veterans Parade, asked mayor and council to participate
- Veterans Luncheon is scheduled for November 8 and if commissioners want to attend to RSVP to Tina.
- USO update: Work/projected count of body waiting on USO
- Fort Hood – Teleconference on November 1 at 2 PM. So far Fleet has hired 2 interns and Austin Energy, CTM, and Public works is interested in participating.
- VBE: Purchasing Office will handle the VBE and have main contractors not subcontractors. Look for grants, recommend commissioners to talk to council members

5. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

- Margo Dover from the Dover Works INC approached the commissioners regarding a rapid employment training model and for the commissioners support.
- Karen Ingram from the Red, White & Blues 512 informed the commissioners regarding the RWB512 event that benefits homeless veterans in partnership with Caritas and Echo to be scheduled on Vets Day Sunday free at Front Steps.

ADJOURN: Jason Denny adjourned the meeting at 9:09PM. Without objection