

COMMISSION ON VETERAN AFFAIRS MEETING MINUTES



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REGULAR MEETING
May 16, 2018

The Commission on Veteran Affairs convened in a regular meeting on May 16, 2018 at City Hall located on 301 W 2nd Street, Austin Texas 78701.

Chair Jason Denny called the Board Meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Jason Denny - Chair
Pete Salazar- Vice Chair
Chris Ehlinger

Manuel Jimenez
Molly Potter
David Thomas

Staff in Attendance: Karen Haywood, Allen Bergeron, Sylba Everett

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Chair Denny asked the Commission members to review the minutes from the regular meeting on March 21, 2018. Vice Chair Salazar made a motion to approve the March meeting minutes and Commissioner Molly Potter seconded the motion. Motion passed with no objection.

2. BUSINESS

- SDVBE (Service Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise) update by City of Austin Purchasing department. Only applies to prime contractors at this time. Created a flyer, subcontractor opportunities does not apply during the interim period. Will use the State 20% disability rating to be qualified. From 7 to 27 signed up from the outreach, no current proposals submitted by Veteran companies.
- Molly Potter proposes a workgroup that will pull in community leaders to have a centralized veteran resource center and their expertise is helpful.
- Stephen Sonnenberg updated the commission on the Veteran Community Park and pavilion where veterans can be brought together with the citizen community.
- Creation of workgroups:
 - Commission Potter made a motion to create a Veteran Resource Center workgroup and a core team of non-commission participants.
 - Vice Chair Pete Salazar seconded the motion
 - The vote was passed with no objections.
 - Commissioner Jimenez made a motion to create a working group for the creation of a municipal court
 - Commissioner Ehlinger Seconded the motion

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- The vote was passed with no objection
- Chair Denny recommends Commission Ehlinger to lead the Veteran's park initiative workgroup
 - Commissioner Thomas made the motion to create a working group for Veterans park
 - Commissioner Potter seconded the motion
 - The vote was passed with no objections
- Discussion regarding the profile of the Austin bomber having military training and the negative stigma of those who serve our country being associated with it.
- Vice Chair Salazar updated the progress of the Austin Vets Festival organized by Glenn Towery
- Special called meeting to discuss the budget process decided to be on May 30th at 7PM

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

N/A (No public hearings during this meeting)

4. STAFF UPDATES

- Karen, Assistant Director for HRD and Sylba Everett, MSC Administrator discussed and compared the recommendations and resolution regarding the Veteran Resource Center.
- Memorial Day Ceremony on May 24th at City Hall Council Chambers at 10AM.
- End of year report due end of July.

5. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

- Taryn Davis – Front Steps and requests if the Commission could create list-serve of resources to send out to the veterans.
- Honorable Maria Canchola – Former constable and informing the commission regarding the creation of a City Court. Represents Austin Veterans United and in the process of creating a process for intervention for combat veterans who are in jail for municipal court.
- Gene Vela – Austin Veterans United, is in program development as a new organization and mission is to represent veterans to upgrade discharges

ADJOURN: Jason Denny adjourned the meeting at 8:42PM. Without objection