



DRAFT

Minutes

A meeting of the Veteran Affairs Commission was held at 2541 W. Southcross Blvd. San Antonio, Texas 78211 (VFW Post 8397) on 26 October 2021 at 3:00pm, and discussed the following matters:

Meeting was called to order and Pledge of Allegiance conducted.

Chair conducted Roll Call.

In Attendance: D1 Cris Vieyra Jr, D3 Edward Fears, D4 Juanita Sepulveda, D5 John Gauna, D8 Tracy Potts, D9 Humberto Quintanilla, D10 Kevin Crozier, Mayoral Representative/ Chair Richard Delgado Jr.

Not in Attendance: D2 Andrew Vicencio, D6 Oliver Carr, D7 Vacant.

CoSA Staff in Attendance: Juan Ayala (OMVA), Debe Clark (OMVA representative)

Public Comment:

Chair recognized D1 for hosting the meeting and asked D1 to speak on the location. D1 shared VFW Post 8397's Food Drive efforts and tasked OMVA representative to distribute flyers. (Action completed on 26 October 2021).

Approval of Minutes:

Chair made a motion for vote and approval of 15 March 2021 meeting minutes. Item approved. OMVA tasked to change minutes to final and post on VAC website. (Action completed on 26 October 2021).

Chair explained 17 May 2021 meeting did not have quorum and notes are solely for review. OMVA representative tasked to distribute digitally 17 May 2021 notes. (Action completed on 26 October 2021).

Chair moved to agenda items including information and voting items.

1. District Representative Introductions and Updates.
 - a. All representatives are newly appointed or reappointed with D1 and D3 pending confirmation.
 - b. Each representative introduced their self-including military affiliation, current non-profit affiliations, current area of employment, current status/ guidance with their council member.
 - c. Chair called upon OMVA representative for introduction.
 - d. Districts tasked OMVA with alternative method to contact city photographer.
2. VAC Chair and Co-Chair nominations and vote for appointment.

- a. Chair made a motion for nominations for Chair. D10 nominated Mayor's representative, current chair, to continue as new term chair. Chair accepted. Discussion ensued. Members voted for approval.
 - b. Chair made a motion for co-chair nominations. D8 nominated D4. D10 seconded, D4 accepted. Discussion ensued. Members voted for approval.
3. Engagement Opportunities for districts.
- a. OMVA briefed why engagement opportunities are relevant to districts and the city.
 - b. OMVA briefed upcoming opportunities including San Antonio Chamber of Commerce's Celebrate America's Military (CAM) calendar, OMVA's hosted event "United Serving the Community", Military Block Leave with the San Antonio Airport (SAT).
 - c. OMVA tasked to send CAM and United Serving the Community information to the VAC. (Action completed on 26 October 2021).
 - d. OMVA provided information about having military recruiters at events and how it is beneficial for the recruiters but also for event organizers.
4. VAC Calendar Creation.
- a. Chair motioned to create a VAC calendar on the VAC webpage to consolidate special events. D1 makes a motion for approval. D10 seconds motion.
 - i. Discussion included type of events. OMVA representative called on by D4, Co-chair to discuss other calendars. It was determined the JBSA Alliance calendar would not be duplicated and that the VAC calendar will not cover employment focused events.
 - ii. Item voted on and approved.
 - iii. OMVA representative tasked to work with website manager to develop the calendar. OMVA to present at the next VAC meeting ways ahead for submissions of items. (Development: Action completed on 15 Nov)
 - b. Chair motioned to hold meetings every other month at 3pm on Mondays. Discussion ensued. D4 makes a motion for approval. D1 seconded the motion.
 - i. Discussed cycle for meetings. Determined typically 3rd Monday of the month unless conflict then 2nd Monday of the month.
 - ii. Discussion included meeting locations. Members agreed districts would take turns hosting meetings within their district. Potential locations discussed including library's, VFWs, community centers, and district offices. If representative has issues securing location, they will reach chair.
 - iii. Discussion included potential backup locations. OMVA representative called on who proposed the Good Samaritan Victory Center. Members agreed with the alternate location as a backup.
 - iv. Discussed having a central meeting topic to discuss each time that is determined by hosting district and approved by chair and cochair prior to the meeting agenda. Hosting district must submit topic early enough for other district to research topic and add supporting agenda items.
 - v. Discussed chair and co-chair receiving all agenda items prior to OMVA receiving. Chair and co-chair will send OMVA draft agenda one week prior to the meeting to allow OMVA to officially publish and meet suspense for Texas Open records act.
 - vi. Discussed the upcoming holidays and meeting schedule. Members agreed to meet in early November instead of December to avoid holiday conflicts. November would start every other month rotation of regular meetings.

- vii. Discussed having a holiday social in December. All members interested and would like to include family and council members. Item to be discussed at November meeting as an agenda item.
- viii. VAC projected meeting schedule, locations, and themes voted for approval.
- ix. VAC chair tasked self to send a poll to members to determine rotation of districts as hosts for upcoming meetings.
- c. By Laws Subcommittee
 - i. Chair explained status of bylaws updates and need for subcommittee.
 - ii. Chair requested self-nominations for subcommittee.
 - iii. D1, D5, and D8 nominated self for committee.
 - iv. Discussion included process of change. The subcommittee must bring proposed changes to VAC for vote prior to item going to city Governance Commission for pre-approval before receiving City Council approval.
 - v. Discussion included VAC budget. Historically VAC had a small budget however was not unutilized and was donated. Sub-committee will consider adding budget into ordinance.
 - vi. Chair self-tasked to provide previously proposed changes to the subcommittee.
 - vii. Chair tasked suspense for the sub-committee to report back at the January VAC meeting findings and proposed updated document for vote. Item will be added to January agenda items.

5. District Representative Updates:

- a. Chair explained that typical meetings will have district updates as the final portion. Chair called on Director, OMVA, Juan Ayala who explained importance of VAC and district councilmembers (CM) relationships and need to have one-on-one meetings.
- b. D1- Discussed importance of military and veterans as a large voting population to their council member. D1 will research more on homeless veterans and outreach for CM.
- c. D2- Absent.
- d. D3- Will pre-brief CM about upcoming bylaws. Chair stated to rest of members that they will need to do the same prior to it reaching Governance Committee and City Council.
- e. D4- CM interested in banners highlighting veterans and alternative behavior health programs and activities.
- f. D5- Currently using strength of benefits knowledge as a method to reach out to individuals in district.
- g. D6- Absent.
- h. D7- Vacant.
- i. D8- Completed a youth mentorship program which strengthens communities' perspective on military. Visited and provided resources to homeless encampment specifically ensuring connections to unhoused veterans in district, working with OVMA for citizen's Camp Bullis tour. D8 also continued to citizens' complaints issue of a SM. Determination for process is to continue to call SAPD as well as nearest installations Military Police to ensure the SM's chain of command is also aware.
- j. D9- Conducted meeting with other CM's Commissioner representative which allowed cross talk and ensured all were united. Chair encourages other representatives to do the same within their district.
- k. D10- CM working a funding issue for a facility to do with veterans. D10 will follow up (OMVA unaware), highlighted upcoming changes to state parking laws for accessibility plates as well as city laws. OMVA representative provide a small overview of proposed

city changes. Districts will need to brief their CMs. Policy is still in the works and OMVA will present at next VAC meeting pending Parking Taskforce chair's approval.

- I. Chair- called on OMVA for any remaining items. OMVA stated the subcommittee for the Elizabeth Dole Foundation (EDF) was not discussed. OMVA explained what EDF is. OMVA tasked to send EDF upcoming virtual convening and gala information so VAC can learn more. (Action completed on 26 October 2021). EDF subcommittee to be added to the next meeting agenda.
 - m. OMVA added to item 3 additional points; stated additional engagements already sent to CM included attending an Air Force Basic Military Training (BMT) graduation and tours of installations. OMVA offers to help coordinate both. OMVA encourages VAC to encourage CM to visit and if previously have seen one installation, to tour another facility. OMVA tasked to send BMT information to the VAC. (Action completed on 26 October 2021).
6. Chair proposed meeting conclude. D10 makes a motion for approval. D4 seconds the motion. All vote in favor to adjourn at 4:43pm.