

The Veterans Affairs Commission (VAC) held a meeting at Catholic Life Insurance (1635 NE Loop 410 Ste 300, San Antonio, TX 78209) on 10 July 2023. At 0630 PM, the Co-Chair called the meeting to order.

Representatives conducted the Pledge of Allegiance. The Co-Chair conducted roll call.

- **Representatives in Attendance:** Burrell Parmer (D2), Juanita Sepulveda (D4/Co-Chair), John Gauna (D5), Walter Rogers (D6), James Smith (D7), Tracy Potts (D8), Kevin Crozier (D10)
- **Representatives Not in Attendance:** Chris Vieyra Jr (D1), Edward Fears (D3), Burt Quintanilla (D9), Richard Delgado JR. (Mayoral/Chair)

Additional attendees for record noted by Staff Liaison include:

- **CoSA Staff in Attendance:** Tim Woliver (MVAD), Nathan Roberts (MVAD; VAC Staff Liaison/SL)
- **Citizens:** Steve Trevino (VFW Post 76), Juliana Stith (D9), Mark Cason (District 3), Jason Opolinski (D2)

Co-chair led the meeting through the following items:

1. Opening Remarks

- a. Co-chair provided opening comments.
- b. Approval of last meetings minutes. Co-chair introduced item, 20 March 2023 Minutes. D10 motioned to accept the minutes. District 6 seconded the motion. All in favor. **Motion carries.**

2. Representative Briefs

- a. Administrative Items.
 1. Discussion occurred regarding Community Liaison Appointments and required training for representatives. SL will take on due out to develop a master list regarding required training for representatives and community liaisons.
- b. Tim Woliver introduced Nathan Roberts as the new Staff Liaison (SL) representing the Military and Veteran's Affairs Department on the VAC.
 1. MVAD briefed that the Coast Guard birthday celebration would occur on 3 August at City Hall during City Council A Session.
 2. MVAD briefed that an unaccompanied veteran funeral event would be held at Fort Sam Houston on 19 July.
- c. Appointed Representative Briefs.
 1. D8 discussed constituent services and community outreach efforts within district. D8 announced that he no longer resided in district 8 as a result of zoning changes.
 2. D6 briefed his efforts to make face to face contact with representatives of Veterans organizations in his district and identify issues and concerns that they see regarding Veterans in the local community.
 3. D5 discussed work with the Department of Human Services to address the Veteran housing issue.
 4. D4 spoke about multiple events/organizations she had participated in over the last several months to include: Marathon Petroleum Women's Leadership, Whitehouse Women's historical month roundtable, South Texas Panels for Impact of Higher Education for Veterans, and Hidden

Helpers caregiver summit for the youth. D4 also briefed ongoing efforts to refurbish housing units and provide food for Veterans in need.

5. D2 briefed that his district offered a free concert for Veterans on Memorial Day and introduced himself to attendees as the point of contact to communicate Veteran issues to their councilperson. He recommended that a future VAC meeting be held at the American Legion.
- d. Discussion occurred over whether open meeting act applied if VAC members attended events outside of scheduled meetings if they did not discuss official VAC business. SL will follow up with the City Attorney for more information on this issue.

3. Committee Updates

- a. D4 briefed upcoming Hidden Hero event for 20 July 2023 at the Good Samaritan. This is a free event to support Caregivers with food and childcare provided. D10 recommended that VAC representatives invite council members.
- b. Veterans Day Committee met last on 11 March 2023. The budget has not been finalized, however MVAD has requested funding to support Veteran's Day event. D2 made recommendation that each VAC district rep speak with respective council person and request \$500 from each district to support event.
- c. Veteran Housing Recommendation was made for the VAC to support the creation of a pop-up community utilizing the Town Twins model as a solution to veteran homelessness. While funding details are still under development, the goal is to have a plan in place by the end of the year.
- d. D8 briefed update to the 2023 Strategic Plan. Plan is still in draft form and needs to include Hidden Heroes as well as funding from each district to support annual awards ceremony. D2 recommended that each district contribute \$500. D8 referenced a study conducted by United Way and recommended that it be distributed to the entire group for better understanding of Veteran issues in the community. SL took this down as a due out.

4. Focus Topics

- a. Veterans Subcommittee recognition. D2 briefed proposed plan for Veteran of the Year recognition program. Plan will be submitted to SL for distribution to the VAC. VAC representatives will meet with their council person for feedback and provide proposed edits prior to 1 September.
- b. PTSD awareness plan. **Tabled until August.**

5. Closing Comments

- a. Co-chair stated that the next meeting would occur on 21 August at 6:30 pm.
- b. Topic of the next meeting will be the Elections and Mid-year Committee reports.

6. Adjournment

- a. Co-Chair recapped the due outs from meeting.
- b. D10 made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by D2. Meeting adjourned at 08:06 PM.