

**VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MARKET STATION OFFICES, ROUNDHOUSE ROOM  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2016, 3:00 PM**

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**VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD  
MARKET STATION OFFICES, ROUNDHOUSE ROOM  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2016, 3:00 PM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Veterans Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Chris Calvert, at 3:00 pm, on Wednesday, June 8, 2016, at the Offices at Market Station, Roundhouse Room, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chris Calvert, Chair  
Chris Scargall, Vice Chair  
Chris Abeyta  
Kenneth Dettelbach  
Dorothy Seaton  
Sigrid Hannah Mabel  
Carmen Rodriguez  
Henry B. F. Hughes

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Phillip Chavez, Excused

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Chris Sanchez, City of Santa Fe  
Jolene Sanchez, City of Santa Fe  
Phillip Hernandez, Workforce Solutions  
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION** A motion was made by Ms. Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Dettelbach, to approve the agenda.

**VOTE** The motion passed unanimously by voice vote

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
MAY 11, 2016**

**MOTION** A motion was made by Mr. Dettelbach, seconded by Ms. Rodriguez, to approve the minutes.

**VOTE** The motion passed unanimously by voice vote

**5. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS**

**A. VETERANS EMPLOYMENT SUMMIT - SEPTEMBER, 2016**

Mr. Hernandez said the purpose of this event is to better educate employers in serving Veterans. He is working with Ms. Dykman on this event. DVS will be there to help companies understand how they are able to utilize funds to provide training to Veterans so they can get their certifications. They will also have information regarding the ability to obtain tax credits for small businesses and other training funds that are available. Other resource providers will also be present. They are talking about having it here in Santa Fe for employers from all over the state. He would like a possible sponsorship from this Commission and he has talked to Chair Calvert about getting his help in obtaining the convention center as a venue. It is tentatively planned for September on a Thursday or Friday.

Chair Calvert said Federal contractors, as part of their contract they are given a goal as far as hiring Veterans. A lot of them are not meeting that goal. This is an opportunity to help them to see how they can serve and reach Veterans. It will be of benefit to employers and Veterans.

Mr. Dettelbach said you should also partner with the Community College. They have training programs and certification programs for Veterans.

Mr. Hernandez said that will be part of our outreach when we get it firmly scheduled. He wanted to make the Commission aware of this event.

Mr. Dettelbach asked how are you getting information to employers.

Mr. Hernandez said that will be done through an official channel.

Mr. Abeyta asked Mr. Hernandez if he wanted to come on his radio program to talk about the event.

Mr. Hernandez said yes, definitely. He will continue to keep the Commission informed as things progress.

Mr. Scargall said he wanted to make sure we have the official title for Ms. Dykman for the minutes. She is the Director of the School Approving Agency for the

State.

Chair Calvert said an additional goal of this event is to get training programs within companies certified.

Mr. Hernandez said a good example is Los Alamos National Labs. They are working to certify their training programs as well.

Mr. Scargall said his only concern is trying to do a statewide event sometimes waters down the event.

Mr. Hernandez said they talked about doing regional events but this has gone all the way to the Secretary's office and they want a statewide event.

Chair Calvert said he has already contacted the Mayor regarding the availability of the Convention Center.

Mr. Hernandez said it has been expressed to him that they really want it here in Santa Fe.

Mr. Dettelbach said maybe as an alternative you could have it at the College.

Ms. Seaton said that Hannah had just been hired at Los Alamos National Labs as a Trainer.

Chair Calvert said you asked for support from the Commission. We need a motion for that.

Mr. Hernandez said we can wait until the next meeting for that. He should have more information by then.

#### **B. LANL HIRING EVENT - JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2016**

Mr. Hernandez said Los Alamos National Labs is holding this event. There will be a resume class then, if they have signed up ahead of time with Amy Chacon, they will meet directly with a Lab person to discuss possibilities and opportunities for hiring. If they have not signed up ahead of time they can still take the class and will be called back for a meeting.

Mr. Hernandez said they are looking for people for many specific fields which are listed on the flyer. One that he did not mention in his flyer is anyone who has experience working on a nuclear submarine.

Mr. Hernandez encouraged everyone if they know a Veteran who is looking for a job to let them know about this event.

Everyone said great job. That is a good event.

Ms. Mabel arrived at the meeting and said she just got a job at LANL. In the past they have always hired many Veterans. There is a Veterans committee there. What is different now is that they are seeing a lot of retirements coming up and they need to bring on new people to fill in those gaps. They want to be more active in their outreach. You can pass on to Veterans that you know that they will have a lot of support out there. Also she will be doing institutional type training like CPR in her new job at the Lab.

Ms. Mabel said they have good jobs with good pay. A lot of guys come home and just settle so they can pay their bills and take care of their families. If we can help our Veterans with jobs like these it would be great.

**C. 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY VIETNAM WAR, WAR MEMORIAL - JUNE 18, 2016**

Chair Calvert said this is all set. Chris Abeyta was nice enough to get flyers for us. The flyers were passed out.

Chair Calvert said it is on a Saturday. There may be Certificates of Appreciation. Any of you who want to come out please do.

**D. BENEFIT/RESOURCE FAIR GCCC WITH NMDVS - JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2016**

Chair Calvert said the next Saturday will be the Benefits Resource Fair at GCCC. It is sponsored by the NMDVS but we will be participating.

Mr. Scargall said yes we will be there.

Ms. Seaton said she will be there with the Women Veterans table.

Chair Calvert asked for volunteers to man the table.

Ms. Seaton said she would help.

Chair Calvert said to get in touch with Greg. He is still working on getting the Mayor at this event and the previous event.

**E. VVA 996 MANTANZA/50TH ANNIVERSARY VIETNAM WAR EVENT - SEPTEMBER 17, 2016**

Chair Calvert said we have been asked to sponsor this event.

Mr. Scargall said we have been asked to sponsor t-shirts for the event. We do have some money in the marketing budget.

Mr. Dettelbach said the t-shirts will commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War and will show support for Veterans and list sponsors. They are black t-shirts. We will sell 700 tickets. Adults are \$10.00 and kids under sixteen are free. We will have music, free horseback riding for the kids and thirty prizes for drawings. As a sponsor you will get ten tickets. It will be at the fairgrounds. We are asking for \$500 in sponsorship from the Commission.

**MOTION** A motion was made by Mr. Scargall, seconded by Mr. Hughes, to give a \$500 sponsorship contribution to the VVA 996 Mantanza.

**VOTE** The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Dettelbach said there will be some tables for information. Please write the check to VVA 996. Thank you all.

#### **F. VAB VETERANS COORDINATOR POSITION**

Mr. Scargall said this is crucial. When he first started talking to the Mayor about Veterans issues over a year ago, he was very receptive. One of the things on his verbal agenda was having a Veterans Coordinator with the City. He thinks setting aside politics, budgets and other agendas, as a Veterans Advisory Board, it is us that need to be the ones to be the voice behind the urgency of something like this. Part time or full time. We need to have someone out there forty hours a week who is committed to serving the Veterans and their families in the community. That population deserves to have a representative in our City. Roger Newall is in that position in Albuquerque.

Mr. Scargall said he is not demanding that the position be created but respectfully respecting that feasibility reports be done to move forward on a position like this. He sees a lot of big ideas going on in the community and has not seen the wallet closed necessarily. We want this acted upon and thought out. This is not a new idea. Maybe it would eliminate some stress off of Chris Sanchez's plate. Mr. Newall is the staff for the Veterans Commission in Albuquerque.

Chair Calvert said yes, but he is also in Constituent Services and has duties there as well.

Mr. Scargall said when he met with the Mayor, the Mayor said Veterans are under served. The time is now to make this a reality. We are an Advisory Board and are to advise the Council. He thinks we need to vote and advise the Council that we

think there needs to be a Veterans Coordinator.

Ms. Mabel said it could help before we put our stamp on it, to come up with a job description.

Chair Calvert said yes, if we are going to ask for a position, especially if it is full time, we need to be able to tell the Council what that person will be doing eight hours a day every day.

Ms. Seaton said maybe Mr. Newall could help us with a draft job description.

Mr. Dettelbach said he thinks it is a great idea. There are things going on in the City that do not go through the regular Veterans cycle such as the Veterans Roof Project. They are outside of regular government things that go on. It would be a great idea to get all that information and those events into one place. There may also be businesses who would support that position.

Mr. Scargall said what he would like to do right now is vote that we all support this idea and by the next meeting we will come up with a job description and we can do a request to the Council after the next meeting. That is what he is looking for. So that Veterans can get to one place, one person as a contact and not have to go through all the bureaucracy.

Mr. Hughes said he would like to see the job description before he votes on this. He is not convinced that this will not duplicate what is already being done. It may just be that he does not know what is involved.

Mr. Scargall said we need to create this position.

Mr. Hughes asked how is this going to interface with the Department of Veterans Affairs who provides those services.

Mr. Scargall said they have representatives throughout the state. The position in Santa Fe is currently vacant. But we have to be proactive. The City needs to provide a person for this population.

Ms. Rodriguez said to answer his question, it may be that this person could coordinate efforts with the State, City and others to share information and collaborate.

**MOTION** A motion was made by Mr. Dettelbach that we create a job description by the next meeting and that this Advisory Board will draft a letter to the City to support this particular job.

Chair Calvert said why don't we just bring back a job description at the next meeting and see if we can all approve that.

Mr. Scargall said he would like a vote today to support this job.

Mr. Hughes said not if you want a unanimous vote. He thinks this needs more discussion. He has only heard five minutes.

Chair Calvert we also have to be realistic about the City budget. They just went through a process to scrape pennies together to balance the budget.

Mr. Scargall said it is worth doing.

Chair Calvert said he understood that.

Ms. Mabel said even if it comes to nothing it is symbolic if we sit down and say that this is needed. At least we did our due diligence and it is on the record.

Ms. Seaton that would be a good start to get a recommendation on the table supported by a job description. It needs to be detailed enough so that the Council will understand what we are advising them to do.

Ms. Mabel said she would be interested in seeing who does not support it.

Mr. Scargall said we have the data that shows the needs of our under served population.

Ms. Seaton that will be good support for the recommendation.

Mr. Scargall said he is in support for moving forward.

**MOTION** A motion was made by Ms. Mabel, seconded by Mr. Scargall, that the Commission will pursue the steps necessary to recommend the creation of a Veterans Coordinator position within the City of Santa Fe.

Mr. Dettelbach withdrew his former motion.

Chair Calvert asked what steps do we want to pursue at the next meeting. Do we want to have data and the job description at the next meeting.

Mr. Scargall said he would have the data and job description at the next meeting.

Mr. Hughes said he would also like to see how this works with the other services and agencies that we are already supporting as a Board. How will it work.

Mr. Scargall said it will be the centralized place for Veterans.

Mr. Hughes said what he wants to see is why the Veteran would go to this

person instead of going directly to the service provider.

Mr. Scargall said this person will have two different roles. He won't just sit back in an office. He will go out to Veterans and will be dedicated to Veterans tasks and issues.

Mr. Hughes said he is very sympatric to this but it came out of the blue for him.

Ms. Mabel said let's say she has an issue with the VA. Whose email does she use. Trying to figure out who to talk to is hard. This means there would be a person to talk to.

Chair Calvert said Chris Sanchez has a certain responsibility now for this and is an employee of the City and Director of the Children and Youth Department. He just hired a new staff person. Maybe she will help with what is being done.

**VOTE** The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

## **6. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. UPDATE ON ASSISTANCE AND SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Mr. Sanchez said a professional services agreement was done then the City's Finance Department changed the process and it had to be redone. The paperwork is now in the hands of the Finance Department. He was assured that by the 24<sup>th</sup> he will have those checks in hand.

Mr. Sanchez said he has finally been able to hire a Program Manager. They have many Committees that they oversee and he feels that with the hiring of the new person he will have more time to do other things he needs to do. He introduced Jolene Sanchez as his new employee.

Ms. Sanchez said she is happy to be here. Her brother is a Veteran and she is looking forward to working with this Commission.

Mr. Sanchez said there were no expansion items in this year's City budget. Regarding the Veterans Coordinator position, we are going to have to be very diligent in the way we present this. He can certainly use help in his department. We have seven Committees we staff.

Mr. Scargall said he and Hannah have worked on the process for the assistance and scholarship funds. The College is going through a lot right now and the President has not been available to get the approval for the administration of the funds yet. He

will be working on that. The Vice President has been ok with it.

## **B. UPDATE ON WEBPAGE**

Mr. Scargall said we are waiting. He met with the City web designer a ways back in January and told him we wanted to get the ball rolling. We went back and forth and it just fell through. He sent him links and information but it has not transpired at this point. It is something maybe he, Chris and Ken should meet on since it has fallen by the wayside.

Chair Calvert said he will work on this.

Mr. Dettelbach said he is willing as well.

Mr. Scargall said there are restrictions with the City that need to be dealt with.

Mr. Dettelbach said we should be able to take pictures and put them on the website for events and things that are happening.

Mr. Sanchez said he has talked with the web person on this and he was asked in a meeting to make sure IT is involved and why it had not been involved so far. He is going to work on getting that done.

Mr. Scargall said maybe the three of us can meet with them and work on this and get an outline. We are dropping the ball. There are beautiful Purple Heart signs up and he has not seen an article or picture of them. If we had a Coordinator this would be a function of theirs.

Mr. Dettelbach said if the groups wants to get together he is available. Also we need to put together a marketing plan of how this group is going to be marketed.

Mr. Scargall said that is why we need a Coordinator.

Ms. Seaton said we are talking about in the present and what we can do now.

Chair Calvert said let's get back to the web page. He appreciates all the thought that has been given to this and all the things you want in there but he would like to get this up and running with basic information. Instead of trying to get it with all the bells and whistles let's start getting it up with basic information going out to the community. To him that is the most important thing. To let Veterans know what is going on and what is out there for them. We can always add to that.

Mr. Scargall said he has given that information to the web guy.

Chair Calvert said we need to all get in a room and agree on that.

Mr. Dettelbach said this Board needs to have control of that website. If something happens yesterday we don't want it on the website a month from now.

Chair Calvert said he understands what he is saying but a government entity is not going to give anyone carte blanc ability to do things. It is natural to do it on the City's computer system but we have to work with them.

Mr. Scargall said he and Chris Sanchez did a lot of work on this.

Chair Calvert said let's schedule a meeting and we will decide who is to do what and what the web guy has and what he needs.

Ms. Seaton said we need to feed the information to the web master. The Board needs to decide what needs to be on the site.

Chair Calvert said we gave him an outline. That is different from giving him all the detailed information to enter into the site.

There was additional discussion. It was decided to put the meeting together with Mr. Scargall, Chair Calvert, Chris Sanchez, Ken Dettelbach and the web guy.

Chair Calvert will work with Chris Sanchez to get the meeting set up.

#### **C. UPDATE ON REAPPOINTMENTS OF VAB MEMBERS**

Mr. Sanchez said he will get the paperwork to the Clerks office if everyone wants to be retained and it will go to Council for approval.

Everyone does want to be retained.

#### **D. UPDATE ON PURPLE HEART SIGNS**

Mr. Scargall said they are all up. He explained where they are located. They look beautiful.

Ms. Mabel said her parking signs are up and look good.

Ms. Seaton said she sees them when she goes to GCCC.

#### **7. COMMENTS FROM CHAIR AND ADVISORY MEMBERS**

Chair Calvert said the annual meeting of DVS and the Veterans organizations is

happening again on the 13th. Dorothy represented us last time.

Ms. Seaton said she would like to go again. If anyone wants to go with her let her know.

Ms. Seaton said regarding the request we had last month for the elderly woman to go to a recognition event, that went off as planned.

Mr. Dettelbach asked Ms. Seaton to send him that information in an email so it can go on the website.

Mr. Abeyta said by the next meeting Santa Fe Bandstand will be starting. He is the MC often and can announce anything happening for Veterans that is coming up. Just let him know.

Mr. Dettelbach said he wanted to give a shout out to Chris Sanchez for all the hard work he has done.

Mr. Hernandez said there is an event on July 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> at Buffalo Thunder for Native Veterans. He will send everyone an email and flyer on it.

Ms. Seaton said the Women Veterans would like to be involved in that.

Mr. Hernandez said he would email her the forms for participation.

Ms. Mabel said she wanted to follow up on a pet project of hers which is flag protocol for the City. Maybe for next year we can create a system for people to dispose of flags. Also we don't have a flag at this municipal facility so maybe the Board could contribute something and make a flag happen at the Railyard.

Mr. Dettelbach asked Ms. Mabel to send him something to put on the web page.

**8. REPORT FROM STAFF**

None

**9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

Chair Calvert said the next meeting is July 13<sup>th</sup>. If you have anything you want on the agenda please send it in at least a week in advance.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.

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Chris Scargall, Chair



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Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer