Veterans Advisory Board
November 20, 2019

Item	Motion/Description	Page
Call to Order	Chris Calvert, Chair of VAB called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m. in the Railyard Offices.	1
Roll Call	A quorum was established with roll call.	1
Approval of the Agenda	Mr. Dettleback moved to approve the agenda with a second from Ms. Vigil which passed by voice vote.	1
Approval of the Minutes from October 16, 2019	Mr. Dettleback moved to approve the minutes with a second from Ms. Vigil which passed by voice vote.	1
Public Comment		1-2
New Business/Action Items: a. Presentation: Veterans Exemptions b. Subcommittee Updates: i. Admin and Budget ii. Homelessness and Relief a. Update on Navigator iii. Community Events and Education a. Santa Fe Veteran's Day Event iv. Education/Employment Entrepreneurship	Discussion Only	2 2 2-3 3 3-4 4
Old Business a. Update: Griego Park cleanup b. Veterans Advisory Board Webpage c. Update: Proposed amendment to Resolution 2015-18 d. Update: Emergency Fund Process e. Update: Follow up with Advent Veteran's Reintegration Center f. Update: Golf Tournament g. Interfaith Letter of Support	Discussion Only	4
Comments from the Chair and Advisory Members		4-5
Report from Staff		5
Adjournment	With all business conducted, the Veteran's Advisory Board adjourned at 6:33 p.m.	5

Veterans Advisory Board
500 Market Place
Santa Fe, NM
Wednesday October 16, 2019

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chris Calvert, Chair of VAB called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m. in the Railyard Offices. A quorum was established with roll call.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Chris Calvert, Chair
Dorothy Seaton, Vice Chair
Ken Dettelback
Kenny Keelin
Anna Vigil

Absent:

Sigrid Hannah Mabel
Rich Christiansen
Jim Williams
John Palomino

Staff and Others Present:

Anna Cale, City Staff
Julie Sanchez, City Staff
Gloria Vigil, SF County Assessor's Office
Brian Osterhage Department of Veteran's Service
Cindy Van Bibber, US Veteran's Cemetery
Ed Mendez, Department of Veteran's Services
David Walker, Department of Veteran's Services
JoAnne LeFrak, Site SF
Linda Vigil, Stenographer

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION: Mr. Dettleback moved to approve the agenda with a second from Ms. Vigil which passed by voice vote.

3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM October 16, 2019**

MOTION: Mr. Dettleback moved to approve the minutes with a second from Ms. Vigil which passed by voice vote.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Seaton introduced Ed Mendez, Brian Osterhage and David Walker from Department of Veterans Services. Mr. Mendez is the state benefits division director, Mr. Osterhage is the Deputy Secretary for the Department, and Mr. Walker is Bureau Chief for the State Cemeteries programs.

Cindy Van Bibber from the National Cemetery has been here for two weeks and is happy to be here.

Ms. Seaton welcomed them all to come open communications for Veterans of the community.

Ms. Sanchez introduced Ms. LeFrak from Site SF who also serves as Chair of the Children and Youth Commission.

Ms. LeFrak wanted to share some upcoming programming relating to Veterans. They will be working with an artist working on a project around Memorial Day. It will be surrounding the Iraq war and Iraq refugees. They will meet to learn to cook the National dish. This will be a private event, she can be the contact person if they know of any Veterans interested in attending.

There is another exhibition coming up that they all might be interested in as well. There is a program that pairs a culinary artist and a community member. Around the same time as the Iraq program she would like to see if a Veteran would be a speaker.

Introductions were made by all in attendance.

5. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS:

a. Presentation: Veteran Exemptions

Ms. Vigil is here on behalf of the Santa Fe County Assessor's Office to discuss exemptions for Veteran's for property taxes. They were a partner in the Golf Tournament this year.

Ms. Seaton asked if this is particular exemption is for Santa Fe County. Ms. Vigil stated every county has this exemption opportunity.

Ms. Seaton states they will be happy to attach the link on the web. Mr. Mendez will also mention that at the Veterans Day at the upcoming Legislature to get a table set up if they are interested.

Ms. Vigil states they are working with all Veteran's and Senior Citizens programs.

b. Subcommittee reports

i. Admin and Budget

Chair Calvert states they will soon have to work on the budget, he wants to assure they plan the priorities. He would like members to start thinking about items they want to add as priorities.

Mr. Dettleback asked if the tax amount designated for the cemetery fund will need to be mentioned.

Chair Calvert explained it to the Department of Veteran's Services. The amount goes to Department of Finance and Administration and then it flows to DVS. Chair Calvert states it used to be an abundant amount that would be collected.

ii. Homelessness and Emergency Relief

a.) Update: Navigator

Ms. Cale states the report is in the packet. It shows 20 new Veterans and are all getting services and none of them denied services.

Chair Calvert explained the work of the navigator to the DVS staff.

Mr. Mendez states they have a new VSO and they can connect the navigator to them. His name if Jeff George however he may move positions.

Mr. Mendez explained there are 13 VSO's across the State.

Mr. Mendez states they send out a monthly newsletter with the VSO's names and contact information on it.

iii. Community Events & Communication

a.)Santa Fe Veterans Day Event

Mr. Keelin mentions the next event is the Wreaths across America which is December 14, 2019. Mr. Keelin explained they cover a certain area and then allow people to place wreaths to place on their loved ones grave.

Mr. Keelin reported the Veteran's Day events went well. Ms. Seaton states the Albuquerque Journal had an article with a nice write up on the events and another one on the Quilts of Valor with stories about the recipients.

Ms. Seaton states the insert from the SF New Mexican was nice, there was a smaller story the day after. She had a lot of good feedback at the event. Ms. Cale acted as a photographer and will post photos to the website.

Ms. Seaton thought it was rewarding to work with all the recipients and the program.

Chair Calvert thanked the members for their work on the event.

Mr. Dettleback states they are working at the Home Show in March and will be getting tables for VAB and other groups. He will work the insert again.

A brief discussion was held on ideas for the theme of next year's events.

Mr. Dettleback mentioned an exhibit on the Native American Veterans. There could be a Native American theme that could cover all war eras.

Mr. Keelin discussed a Korean Veteran burial was held this week, this veteran was captured and died shortly after. His remains were identified and brought back here for burial.

Chair Calvert wants them to think about it and start gathering ideas.

Chair Calvert states Ms. Vigil and her husband along with Mr. Williams and Chair Calvert worked on cleaning the Griego Park. The City will work on the sign and memorial.

Ms. Van Bibber mentioned the last day to sponsor a wreath is December 2nd, they will recognize the Code Talkers that are buried there.

iv. Education/Employment/Entrepreneurship

No report.

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. Griego Park Clean up

Discussed above.

b. Update: Veterans Advisory Board Webpage

Ms. Seaton states Ms. Cale will post new photos, the assessor's information and the event of the wreaths across America.

c. Update: Proposed amendment to Resolution No. 2015-18

Ms. Sanchez explains there are others ahead of it so she has had no response. She had another one for a different committee that took almost six months to prepare.

d. Update: Emergency fund process

Ms. Sanchez states they spoke to the Finance Director and they are able to use the fund now. The new vendors have to be put into the system, which will be the biggest challenge.

Ms. Sanchez explained the vendor will need to submit an invoice showing payment then get the nonprofit the refund.

Mr. Mendez asked what the amendment is. Chair Calvert explained it was for membership to have alternates.

Mr. Dettleback asked if an Alliance member should be a member of this board. Chair Calvert sits on their board as a VAB representative.

Mr. Dettleback explained the benefits of having national partners for example the R & R for Vets program worked on a home of a disabled veteran and the dry wall was done by Wells Fargo. It is very effective.

e. Update: Golf Tournament

Chair Calvert reported that their net was roughly $31,000 they will meet to decide how to divide the funds and planning the next event next year. It was a success, they had positive feedback.

f. Interfaith letter of support

Ms. Cale will gather one more signature for it.

7. COMMENTS FROM CHAIR AND ADVISORY MEMBERS

Ms. Keelin mentioned Ms. Cale and Deana from DVS really helped and made it all work well.

Ms. Seaton mentioned they need a speaker for next year's events if the Deputy Secretary for DVS is interested.

8. REPORT FROM STAFF

A brief discussion was held about the new financial system.

Mr. Osterhage states they are happy to be part of these meetings and will participate. He also accepts the invitation to speak at next year's event.

Chair Calvert asked if the board would like to skip the next meeting if there is nothing pressing.

Ms. Sanchez states the January meeting will focus on the budget.

Chair Calvert asked the members to answer promptly when accepting attendance so they know if a quorum will be present.

9. ADJOURN

With all business conducted, the Veteran's Advisory Board adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

SIGNATURES

Chris Calvert, CHAIR

Linda Vigil, Stenographer