

**VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD
 MARKET STATION CONFERENCE ROOM
 500 MARKET STATION
 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2017, 3:00 PM**

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Veterans Advisory Board was called to order at 3:00 pm on Wednesday, December 13, 2017, at the Market Station Conference Room, 500 Market Station, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

1. A ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chris Calvert, Chair
Greg Scargall, Vice Chair
Ken Dettlebach
Dorothy Seaton
Kenny Keelin
James Hayes
Phillip Hernandez

MEMBERS ABSENT

Sigrid Hannah Mabel, Excused
Chris Abeyta, Excused

OTHERS PRESENT

Julie Sanchez, City of Santa Fe
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Sanchez said she would like to amend the agenda to say that Chris Calvert instead of Phillip Hernandez will do item 4B.

MOTION A motion was made by Ms. Seaton, seconded by Mr. Hayes, to approve the agenda as presented.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 13, 2017**

Ms. Seaton said there is a spelling error. It should be and with an a.

MOTION A motion was made by Mr. Scargall, seconded by Ms. Seaton, to approve the minutes of September 13, 2017 as amended.

NOVEMBER 8, 2017

MOTION A motion was made by Mr. Dettelbach, seconded by Mr. Scargall, to approve the minutes of November 8, 2017, as presented.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

4. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. DISCUSS AND APPROVE SUBCOMMITTEE REASSIGNMENTS

There was a discussion regarding the subcommittees and who wanted to serve on what.

Ms. Seaton will remain on the Administrative and Budget Subcommittee.

Mr. Hernandez and Mr. Scargall will remain on the Education and Employment Subcommittee.

Phillip Hernandez will join the Homeless Veteran Subcommittee along with Mr. Hayes, Christina and Elizabeth.

Mr. Dettelbach, Mr. Scargall, Mr. Hayes and Mr. Kelly will serve on the Community Events and Communication Subcommittee.

Mr. Dettelbach asked for a paragraph for each subcommittee that outlines the subcommittee's purpose.

B. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

1. ADMIN AND BUDGET

Ms. Sanchez reported that she has not received an update on the check off monies that will come to us. The City's Finance Department is going through an adjustment.

Chair Calvert asked when will we find that out.

Ms. Sanchez said she has not received word yet. Last year we received word about the amount and the deposit around this time. She will check on that.

2. SANTA FE VETERANS ALLIANCE

Ms. Sanchez said we are getting the MOU done. Once it is finalized in January we will be able to actively participate with that group.

Mr. Dettelbach asked have they developed a vision and mission statement.

Ms. Sanchez said yes.

3. EDUCATION/EMPLOYMENT

A. DISCUSS AND APPROVE SFCC SCHOLARSHIPS

Mr. Scargall reported that the Community College has used up all the funds except enough for one of each full time scholarship. \$4,000. They want to withhold that money until they have more assurance that we are going to replenish the fund. He knows several Veterans and dependents who are interested. There is a need. Maybe we need to make a recommendation to the school that they award those scholarships.

Ms. Sanchez said we already passed our budget and the money is in there for scholarships. She recommend that Greg go back and have them send her a letter requesting funding from this budget.

Mr. Scargall said we gave we gave Santa Fe Community College \$18,000 for scholarships. They matched it and covered 2 years. They are saying they will match the funding again.

Ms. Seaton said if we have given the money why are they not using it.

Mr. Scargall said we need a vote on this. There is this \$4,000. We should tell them to use it.

Chair Calvert said if they have the money they are obligated to expend it until it is gone. There are people waiting.

Mr. Scargall said send them an email Julie that we want them to use that unused money. We may want to reevaluate the criteria for awards. He doesn't think we were specific enough to be able to weigh out one person getting it over another person. For instance, would an honorable discharge give weight in a decision.

Mr. Scargall said there has been some friction between the Financial Aid Office and some students. We need to push to use the unused funds, but we as a Board, prior to releasing new money, reevaluate eligibility for scholarships.

Chair Calvert said we can do that if the Board wants to. Julie why don't you do that. In January we will discuss some of these things such as is it first come first serve.

Mr. Scargall said he will collect the data on the scholarships.

Ms. Sanchez said great and send it to her.

Chair Calvert said also we need to know how much has been expended each year.

Ms. Sanchez said both she and the Chair received an invitation from the Santa Fe Community College where the VAB was recognized through Ken for being one of the first to establish this. It was for the Scholarship Luncheon. In the future it would be good if we could get notification a bit sooner so more of our Board members could be a part of it. We got a letter 2 days before the event.

Chair Calvert said Julie and Chris Sanchez attended. Ken was there, but not for the Board.

4. HOMELESS VETERAN SUPPORT

A. DISCUSS AND APPROVE RFQ FOR PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST

Ms. Sanchez said 2 years ago the VAB went in front of Council for funding for a Peer Support Specialist and it was approved as part of our budget. It took a while through the VIC to fill that position. We received word that the funding has been used up. They asked if the Board wanted to continue funding that position. She told them she would take it to the Board for a vote. If we do, it has to go out for bid.

Ms. Sanchez said last time it was brought up before Council and they approved the position to be administered out of the VIC. That is how it was awarded. It did not go through a bid process. This will have to be through a bid process.

Chair Calvert asked which is the quickest way.

Ms. Sanchez said through an RFQ.

Chair Calvert said next time we need to do an RFP so that we have the possibility of doing extensions.

Ms. Seaton said that is a wise course.

Chair Calvert said there is no doubt in his mind that we want to keep this position funded. It is key to filling a need out there.

Ms. Seaton said it fills a unique need.

Ms. Sanchez said the outreach done by others is not as comprehensive as this position. A lot of organizations wait for the Veteran to come to them.

Mr. Scargall said when we first approved this and it was proposed he did not think the amount was enough. He thinks we should look at increasing the funding. We did \$10,000. There is a lot of data that supports that we are seeing results and money well spent.

Chair Calvert said we are in this situation and carried over money without planning in advance to reauthorize it before it ran out. We got caught between budget years. Do we need a motion on this.

Ms. Sanchez said yes and the funding amount if changed.

Chair Calvert said lets say \$10,000 on an annual basis to carry us through the end of this budget year. We have a contract with VIC on this. We got them to administer this contract for us. How much do we really want to tell them how to do it.

Mr. Scargall said he feels we should fund it at a living wage times 20 hours a week and cover that.

Chair Calvert said it is up to them to administer the money.

Ms. Seaton said we need to allow the contractor flexibility.

Chair Calvert said we need to put language in there that the money is allocated for the end of this fiscal year for the City.

Ms. Sanchez said we can put language in the contract saying we can extend another year as long as it is not over \$50,000. Then we won't have to go back to ask.

Chair Calvert asked how long will this take.

Ms. Sanchez said if she puts it out today, which will not happen, it takes 3 days to get it completed then it is advertised for 2 weeks before we can consider it. Then it takes 2 weeks for the contract to go through.

Chair Calvert said we will leave it to Julie to do as soon as possible.

MOTION A motion was made by Mr. Dettlebach, seconded by Ms. Seaton, to approve the RFQ.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

B. DISCUSS AND APPROVE VAB APPLYING FOR STAND DOWN GRANT

Chair Calvert said he would like to have a discussion on this. Is this something we want to take on at this point. We don't have enough information on the results of what happened since they moved it out to Rancho Viejo.

Mr. Scargall said we need to have a Stand Down, but do we have the capacity to do it.

Ms. Seaton asked what is the grant for.

Chair Calvert said everything to do the Stand Down.

Ms. Sanchez said it is for \$5,000 if you do one day and \$10,000 if you do 2 days.

Mr. Keelin said the VFW and the American Legion can work with other organizations to get it done.

MOTION A motion was made by Mr. Dettlebach, seconded by Mr. Scargall, to table the grant discussion until we get more information.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Hernandez said we may not be able to have the time or capacity to do it. If the VFW or American Legion are able to do it that is great. Having it done is the important thing.

Chair Calvert said we need to find out more information so we can discuss that.

5. EMERGENCY RELIEF

Ms. Martin reported that she has several requests to submit.

6. COMMUNITY EVENTS AND COMMUNICATION

A. DISCUSS SF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Mr. Scargall said we have had previous conversations on this. We need to come together regarding the state of Veteran Service Organizations in our community and reintroduce ourselves to each other. We need to look behind the scenes. What can we do to support each other. The American Legion and the VFW have some financial stress. Both are working diligently to overcome that. We need to look at legacy and long term and be more of a coalition as to the needs. What are the trends. Maybe we could have it in the spring before Memorial day.

Ms. Sanchez asked what is the end result you hope to achieve.

Mr. Scargall said reintroduction. For us to be able to walk away with a truthful, honest state of Veteran organizations in Santa Fe.

Mr. Hernandez said a coalition feel,

Ms. Seaton said to unite and become a coalition that is sustainable long term.

Mr. Scargall said how can we as a community identify existing resources.

Ms. Seaton asked so this would be to form a coalition with further meetings to happen in the future.

Mr. Scargall said yes.

Mr. Keelin said this is one reason he wanted to join this Board. The American Legion has the ledger from 1919 when it started until 1932. It is amazing to read the history. There were professional fights in town and all kinds of events in town that through committees went out in the community. Both the VFW and the Legion have gotten away from that. He is trying to figure out a way to bring them together. There is a disconnect from both organizations and the members in the organization. There is someone out there who can bring them together with all the Veteran Service Organizations to talk and see what can we do to help each other. He would like to have it as soon as January. Take an afternoon. He can get a place to host it at. The American Legion can do it.

Ms. Seaton sad in the past there has been some contention between entities. She suggests neutral ground.

Mr. Keelin said he can get the luncheon paid for. The next month we could meet at the VFW.

Ms. Sanchez asked who is the target audience.

Mr. Scargall said organization leadership.

Chair Calvert said he understands that with Veterans Service Organizations the emphasis is on service and expenditures of money on program not facilities. Both of these organizations came to us to ask for help.

Mr. Keelin said it does not have to be helping with the structure, but helping with planning and coming together.

Mr. Hayes said he is a trained mediator.

Ms. Seaton said to get what you want to do it needs to be neutral territory.

Ms. Seaton asked do we want to be the host entity for such a thing.

Mr. Hernandez said yes.

Mr. Dettelbach said it is a fabulous idea. He suggests that He, Greg, Kenny and James form a subcommittee to come up with the general structure. We can meet in the next 2 weeks.

Chair Calvert said that can be the start of a process. We need a comprehensive plan.

MOTION A motion was made by Mr. Dettlebach, seconded by Mr. Hernandez, to form a subcommittee and initiate the process.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

It was decided that the subcommittee will meet on January 22nd, at 2:00 pm at the museum.

B. DISCUSS NM MILITARY MUSEUM

Mr. Dettlebach said he is working with the New Mexico Military Museum. The Federal government has designated money for renovation of this place. Master plans are being created. They have over 1,500 artifacts there and a 350 seat auditorium. We are in the process of putting together interested people. His company with his wife Pam, was hired to put this together. It will be first class. The National Guard is lead agency on this. Anyone who would like to be involved is welcome. Every service of the military for every war that New Mexicans served in is represented in the museum. They have

brought in a curator. We will have an education program for schools and 2 traveling classrooms as well.

Chair Calvert asked is this just informational.

Mr. Dettelbach said yes and he will keep informing the Board of it. He would like endorsement in some form.

Mr. Hayes said it sounds cool.

Chair Calvert said the Feds will fund this. Who will fund the ongoing operation.

Mr. Dettelbach said the Foundation will fund the internal operations.

Mr. Hayes asked what do you need.

Mr. Dettelbach said he will come back to the Board with list of possibilities and a written plan.

Ms. Sanchez said she will continue to put it on the agenda for an update.

Mr. Dettelbach said we have a Facebook page. It is New Mexico Military Museum.

C. DISCUSS SANTA FE VETERANS BUSINESS NETWORK

Chair Calvert said he put this on the agenda because he thought this was something we wanted to move forward with. This was a project that Phillip wanted to work on. We have had conversations in the past on this.

Mr. Hernandez said yes, he does want to work on this. Lets pursue this through the Santa Fe Veterans Alliance.

Ms. Seaton said there is a Veterans Business Group that meets in Albuquerque, She will connect you with them.

Mr. Hayes asked is this for Veteran owned businesses and those who hire Veterans. What is criteria. He has a business and would be interested.

The basic criteria was discussed.

MOTION A motion was made by Mr. Hayes, seconded by Mr. Hernandez, to support moving forward with this project.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

7. DISCUSS AND APPROVE 2018 MEETING CALENDAR

Ms. Sanchez said in your packet is a calendar for meetings. Does this work or do we need to adjust in anyway.

Everyone was ok with the meeting schedule as presented.

MOTION A motion was made by Ms. Seaton, seconded by Mr. Hernandez, to approve the 2018 meeting schedule.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

5. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Sanchez said her office is hiring to replace her in this position. We had a great candidate, but with the amount of time it took to do reference checks the posting expired so we have to start over again. The candidate is still interested. It won't go back out until after the election.

Mr. Keellin said we talked about something with people who are incarcerated. He had one of the guards out there approach him and ask him to present to you the bylaws for an organization they have at the prison. He would like to move forward with this personally, look at it more and find out some more information.

Chair Calvert asked do you want our blessing to explore it further. If so, sure. We will put it on the agenda for a future meeting after you gather more information.

Mr. Keellin said he also has wood to give away if anyone knows of a need.

Ms. Sanchez asked Kenny to email her the bylaws.

6. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND ADVISORY MEMBERS

Chair Calvert said Chris Abeyta tendered his resignation. He is not in good physical shape and has had several operations. Chris said he cannot participate for at least 2 years. He reluctantly accepted his resignation and told him we will hold open the possibility of him rejoining. He suggests and requests that people give him a call every once in a while. He lives by himself.

Mr. Hernandez asked Julie to get a card for him.

Chair Calvert said we need to fill that vacancy.

Mr. Hernandez asked can we make him an honorary member.

Ms. Sanchez said if you have any recommendations for the Board please send her their resume and letter of interest so we can start working on those.

Ms. Seaton said she has someone who lives in the County. Anna Vigil with DVR.

Mr. Scargall asked can we reach out to the people from last time that were not chosen.

Ms. Sanchez said she will do that.

Mr. Hernandez asked Julie to bring that list to the next meeting.

7. REPORT FROM STAFF

None.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

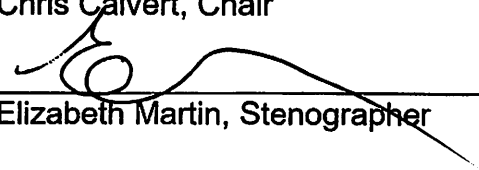
A. VIC REPORT

Ms. Martin gave a brief report on the VIC activities in Santa Fe and Veterans served.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board the meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm.

Chris Calvert, Chair



Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer