

**SUMMARY OF ACTION
 VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD
 MARKET STATION CONFERENCE ROOM
 500 MARKET STATION
 WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2017**

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**VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD
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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Veterans Advisory Board was called to order by Chris Calvert, Chair at 3:00 pm, on Wednesday, July 12, 2017, at the Market Station Conference Room, 500 Market Station, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chris Calvert, Chair
Kenneth Dettelbach
Dorothy Seaton
Phillip Hernandez
(2 vacancies)

There was not a quorum present

MEMBERS ABSENT

Greg Scargall, Excused
Chris Abeyta
Sigrid Hannah Mabel, Excused

OTHERS PRESENT

Richard Demella, City of Santa Fe
Rick Lannucci, Cowboy Up! and Horses for Veterans
Kenny Keelin, American Legion
Gil Martinez, Berardinelli Funeral Home
Kip Vaughn, Goodwill Industries
Charles Grymko, Goodwill Industries
Terrance Shotkoski, Berardinelli Funeral Home
Matt Johnson, Veteran
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

No action taken.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, JUNE 14, 2017

No action taken.

5. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. DISCUSSION VAB VACANCIES

Chair Calvert said we have 2 vacancies now and there are several folks here today who would like to join us as a Board member. He would like to set up a group of the Board to interview the applicants. We will try to set that up as soon as possible and will let the applicants know the details

Chair Calvert gave the background of the VAB and what the goals and mission are.

Mr. Keelin said he is the Vice President of the American Legion Riders motorcycle club. A lot of the things being done by Goodwill and the City are things we also try to do through our efforts. We have a \$500 account we can tap into to help Veterans with things like rent, utilities, hot water heaters and whatever they need. We are also onboard with Operation Wounded Warrior. They receive funding from us. Once a year we go to Walmart and solicit household items and money that is going now to Fisher House in Albuquerque. We work with the VIC there. We also have a \$1,500 fund that can be tapped into at any time. There is no paperwork or red tape. The applicant has to be a Veteran or the spouse of a Veteran. Larger requests have to go to our state office for approval. On the 12th of August we have been requested to release 1,500 balloons for the MIAs that never came back home. We are going to try to do that at the National Cemetery. We do honor guards at the National Cemetery too. We did 180 funerals last year. That is how we get our funding. We don't have the red tape. On the American Legion side they have their gaming fund and every month they have to give away money. We need a letter requesting it. We are also supporters of the Santa Fe High School ROTC.

Mr. Lannucci asked who do we call.

Mr. Keelin said just write a request letter to the American Legion or Aaron Dean with the Wounded Warrior project he has \$1,500. We have taken over Color Guard duties from the VFW because of their attrition rate for their members. Our first priority is the National Cemetery.

Chair Calvert said one of the other missions we are trying to perform is to try to connect all of these organizations together so everyone is aware of all the things going on.

Mr. Lannucci said we also are a free asset for the community. We underwrite projects and we built a bunkhouse. It opens us up now for lodging and out of town guys. We have navy seals, marines and others coming in 2 by 2 and some women's group. Combat veterans. We also offer our bunkhouse for meetings. Thanks to Ken Dettelbach we have heat in there.

Ms. Seaton said we had our Women Veterans retreat out there. It is a very nice facility.

Mr. Lannucci said we open up to Veterans who have been in the program or want to go through our program. During holidays we put them up and they use the facility for family retreats. The programs are free. We don't have transportation budgeted. Could your riders help us out with transportation. Give it some thought. It would be on a case by case basis when a Veteran wants to have his buddy join him in the program and we need a plane ticket. We vet them.

Mr. Keelin said he will give that some thought. Leroy Pitre is one of our members.

Mr. Dettelbach said for you guys who are looking at being a Board member, we also are looking for Board Members for the Friends of the VAB. We are a 501c3. This is separate from the City. They will carry out the mission of the VAB.

Ms. Seaton said we have 1 candidate so far committed.

Chair Calvert said we have 2 now.

Chair Calvert said it will be a nonprofit that will be a fund-raising arm for this Board to provide a sustainable source of income for programs.

B. DISCUSS AND APPROVE VAB BLOCK GRANT

Mr. Demella said the VIC applied for the Block Grant. That information was emailed to you.

Chair Calvert said we can't formally award the grant to the VIC without a quorum. We have to call a special meeting to do that.

Mr. Dettelbach said call a special meeting.

Chair Calvert will get with Julie about a special meeting.

C. DISCUSS AND APPROVE REVISED EMERGENCY FUND PROCESS

Mr. Hernandez said he would like to request bank statements from people requesting funds.

Chair Calvert asked what if they don't have a bank account.

Mr. Hernandez said he has never had a Veteran tell him no when he has asked for a bank statement.

Chair Calvert said we will have to consider this at our next meeting.

D. SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

1. COMMUNITY EVENTS AND MARKETING

A. STATUS ON VIETNAM VETERAN COMMEMORATION

Mr. Dettelbach said there is no additional information. We will have some requests at the special meeting.

B. STATUS ON PUBLICIZING EVENT

Mr. Dettelbach said we need to get the flyers that were emailed to each of you sent out to publicize this.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGET

Ms. Seaton said there is nothing new to report.

3. FRIENDS OF VAB

A. STATUS ON RECRUITMENT OF BOARD MEMBERS

Chair Calvert said we have a second committed person and he is meeting with Victoria tomorrow.

4. EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

a. STATUS ON RECOGNITION CEREMONY

Chair Calvert said we need a follow up from Julie. We would like to have an event with the Mayor and the President of the University.

5. HOMELESS VETERAN SUPPORT

Chair Calvert said there is no report.

6. EMERGENCY RELIEF

A. STATUS ON EMERGENCY REQUESTS : A. GOVERNALI

Mr. Governali was given emergency assistance for rent and utilities. There are no new requests.

B. NON EMERGENCY VETERAN REQUESTS

There are no new requests.

6. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Demella said it is a real honor to sit in for Julie with you guys today. He has a kid in the service right now in Korea that he is worried about. He has respect and honor for all that you do. He is a former New York City cop and he works with juveniles for the City. It was a pleasure to be here with you. Thank you for what you do and what you did for the Country.

7. COMMENTS FROM CHAIR AND BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Seaton said she went on a cruise and presented one of our pins to a Veteran on the cruise. The Veteran had served 33 years and is retired and is a wonderful woman. Our Women's Veterans group did volunteer assistance at Hannah's home. Her partner is starting a new business and is having a hard time keeping up with all that needs to be done. We did yard work and we need someone with a truck to haul away branches.

Mr. Dettelbach said Kenny Nava got his 2nd star and is a Major General now. He has taken over all the National Guards in the State. There is an effort to consolidate all these things we are doing under one kind of educational capability with organizations

that support Veterans. He will bring this up at the next meeting. Also Kenny wants to meet with this group regarding the military museum the US Army owns on Old Pecos Trail. There is a discussion going on about funding to turn that into a first class interactive military museum reflecting wars back to 1600. Every war will be represented and all military groups. He will bring this up at the next meeting and will get Kenny out here 2 months from now. They are looking for docents. There will be a training for docents on July 19th.

8. REPORT FROM STAFF

None.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Mr. Shotkoski said August 7th is the National Recognition Day for Purple Heart. He and Gil are co-chairs. The City is on board. He spoke to the State Commander and is now working on the protocol to get this approved. He has also met with the State Commander, Mr. Roybal. We are meeting tomorrow with the Secretary General for approval. The event will be at 10:00 am on August 7th at the Veterans monument outside the Bataan Building. We have a good relationship with Veterans and have several organizations on board. We also have companies willing to do printing on this for us once it is approved.

Mr. Martinez passed around a draft of what they are preparing for. The City logo and the Veterans logos will be on the flyer.

Chair Calvert said Richard will you give them Julie's contact information so they can coordinate with her to get the VAB and City logo on. One of this Board's first actions was getting the City to pass a Resolution declaring the City a Purple Heart City. There are 4 signs up now declaring that designation.

Mr. Martinez said we want to make this event an annual event. We want to appreciate what Purple Heart Veterans have done and that it has not gone unnoticed. It is a deep honor when we take care of Veterans. We see the respect and honor. We will not forget. We come to you for your support, guidance and any contribution you can help us with.

Chair Calvert asked what else can we do for this.

Mr. Martinez said this is our first time out. We won't know until after what went wrong and what went right. We need your help to invite people. We need to educate the young folks. They don't know what a Purple Heart is much less the missions and pain and suffering these men and women undertook. We are asking the General to provide a fly over with 3 helicopters.

Mr. Shotkoski said we can't go forward until after tomorrow's meeting after the Secretary General approves it.

Mr. Dettelbach said if you give me a flyer we can distribute to our members. On the 20th of July we have a gathering of the VVA at the American Legion. You may want to stop by. He can distribute flyers there as well as to the USS Santa Fe group.

Mr. Martinez said we going to churches, newspapers and radio.

Ms. Seaton said you should contact Chris Abeyta to put you on radio. He on this Board and his radio show focuses on Veterans.

Mr. Shotkoski said we realize the clock it ticking. As soon as we get the sign off tomorrow we will get printing and get on the air waves.

Chair Calvert said we will post this on our Veteran's page on the City website.

Mr. Martinez said it would be good if we could get the City to bag the meters around the Bataan Building for handicapped Veterans. You can help by asking the City for us. He would like to see Veterans park there. That would be great.

Mr. Martinez said we were told that some time ago they were burying a General on the hill at the National Cemetery. They used cannons. We are going to ask the General if we can use 1 or 2 cannons even if they are stagnant. They are educational.

Ms. Seaton asked can the City notify neighbors if there are cannons and fly overs.

Chair Calvert said he is not sure.

Ms. Seaton said she is not opposed to those things she just wants communication to the neighborhood about what is happening and why it is important.

Chair Calvert said thank you for organizing that event.

Mr. Dettelbach said he invited Kenny and Rick as potential members of the Board.

Mr. Vaughn said he is with Goodwill Industries. We are a Federal program for supporting Veterans and families. We serve those who are at imminent risk, with an eviction notice, of losing housing. We are primarily housing homeless Veterans and providing case management. There are some things that we might be able to do. It is on a case by case. He has 20 clients now. There is some recidivism. We help house Veterans who are homeless.

Mr. Lannucci asked do you have housing compounds.

Mr. Vaughn said no, they find apartments and we work with them. They have to be low income for the County they are in. They do the leg work for themselves. We could do deposits or utility deposits or first month rent. If they are meeting their housing plan that they agree to we may be able to continue to help them. The program is designed to be 90 days but can go longer.

Mr. Dettelbach asked how are you funded.

Mr. Vaughn said through a grant from the Federal Government. The VIC has a grant per diem program. Ms. Martin could tell you more about that.

Mr. Lannucci asked they have to show you an eviction notice.

Mr. Vaughn said yes, a 3 day notice. That is when he steps in. He works with the landlord and has never been turned down. As long as we provided help.

Mr. Dettelbach asked do you do anything with Veterans in homes they own.

Mr. Vaughn said no but we can assist them in referrals.

Mr. Lannucci said he is seeing a lot of Veterans that take an apartment and find out they can't do it. Then they have to move to a cheaper place but their money is tied up paying rent. They can't afford the deposit for another place.

Mr. Vaughn said that is not unusual. The apartment has to be rent reasonable with the County and their funding sources. If you can be homeless for a couple of days and stay somewhere that is not sofa surfing he can help them. Then they become a priority.


A. UPDATE VIC

Ms. Martin gave a brief update of Santa Fe VIC activities.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board the meeting adjourned at 4:25pm.

Chris Calvert, Chair



Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer