

**SUMMARY OF ACTION
 VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD
 CITY HALL, COUNCILORS CONFERENCE ROOM
 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2017, 3:00 PM**

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Veterans Advisory Board was called to order at 3:25 pm by Chris Calvert, Chair, on Wednesday, September 13, 2017, at the Market Station Conference Room, 500 Market Station, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chris Calvert, Chair
Greg Scargall, Vice Chair
Dorothy Seaton
Kenny Keelin
James Hayes

MEMBERS ABSENT

Sigrid Hannah Mabel, Excused
Phillip Hernandez, Excused
Ken Dettlebach, Excused
Chris Abeyta, Excused

OTHERS PRESENT

Julie Sanchez, City of Santa Fe
Christina Kuperschmidt
Valarie Romero
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Calvert said we do not have the minutes for July 25th so that item needs to be postponed.

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

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

JULY 25, 2017

Postponed

AUGUST 9, 2017

MOTION A motion was made by Ms. Seaton, seconded by Mr. Keelin, to approve the minutes of August 9, 2017 as presented.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

5. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. CONGRATULATIONS TO KENNY KEELIN AND JAMES HAYES, ESQ.

Chair Calvert welcomed Mr. Keelin and Mr. Hayes as new members of the Board. He thanked them for bring here.

Mr. Hayes said he was working at a law firm who wanted him to spearhead their Veteran activities and asked him to work with Veteran's organizations such as Wounded Warrior out of Jacksonville, Fl. He went to their headquarters which was a massive building. It was clear that a lot of the money they received was being used for overhead and administration. They get nationwide money from folks thinking the money they give as going to Veterans. He stopped working with them. He is a lawyer. He was in the Air Force for 8 years and is excited to help Veterans and families in the local area.

Mr. Keelin said he has a lot of questions, but will jump in where he can help.

Chair Calvert said we have 2 guests and he asked them to introduce themselves.

Ms. Kuperschmidt said she is working with Ms. Seaton. She recently relocated from Kansas City. She has been doing social work with homeless Veterans. She joined the Women Veterans of New Mexico and will help them with supportive services.

Ms. Romero said she is a community advocate for mental health and is hoping to give back and help.

Mr. Scargall said he may be able to offer her community service hours at the Community College in his program.

B. DISCUSS AND APPROVE SUBCOMMITTEE REASSIGNMENTS

Chair Calvert said the Subcommittee assignments list is in the packet.

Ms. Sanchez said she will meet with each Subcommittee and develop time lines.

1. COMMUNITY EVENTS AND MARKETING

Ms. Sanchez said she would like to change the name of this Subcommittee to Outreach and Communication.

Chair Calvert said some events are recognition.

Ms. Sanchez asked how about Recognition and Outreach.

Ms. Seaton said we could substitute outreach for marketing.

Chair Calvert said if we need to work outreach in there he is fine with that.

Ms. Seaton asked what about the task descriptions

Ms. Sanchez said those stay the same.

Ms. Sanchez said we have Mr. Dettelbach, Mr. Scargall, Ms. Rodriguez, who is not with us anymore, and Mr. Abeyta on this Subcommittee at this time.

Ms. Seaton said this Subcommittee is most closely related to Mr. Abeyta's skill set.

Mr. Keelin volunteered to be on this Subcommittee.

Ms. Sanchez said she wants a marketing strategy to come out of this Subcommittee and what that looks like. It also works on events and planning.

Ms. Seaton said she recently went on a cruise and met a woman who was a Major General. She gave one of the VAB pins to her and we had Veterans night on the cruise as well. She represented the Board in that manner.

Mr. Hayes volunteered to be on this Subcommittee.

Chair Calvert said we have had a problem with getting support from the City staff to get things publicized. If we could develop a rapport with the newspapers that would be good.

Mr. Hayes said he does civil rights cases. The newspapers know him well in a positive manner.

2. ADMINISTRATION AND BUDGET

Ms. Sanchez said Ms. Seaton has been working with her on this Subcommittee. If anyone is interested in joining her to let her know. Ms. Seaton said the more the merrier.

3. FRIENDS OF VAB

Ms. Seaton said we have good candidates for the Friends of the VAB out there and we don't want to lose them because we have not involved them.

Chair Calvert said he sent out a sample MOU. We have to come up with something like that MOU for this effort.

Chair Calvert said he talked with Elizabeth Martin and she has volunteered to do the paperwork and get the 501c3 formed. She has experience in this. He is suggesting we try that avenue and see if that will work. The City has told us we cannot use our funds to pay someone to do this.

Ms. Seaton asked is Mr. Hayes interested in doing that.

Mr. Hayes said he knows nothing about that and has no experience in that.

Ms. Seaton said we need to have a candidates meeting.

Ms. Sanchez said she, Ms. Martin, Mr. Dettelbach and the Chair need to meet to discuss time lines and the particulars about the effort.

Chair Calvert updated the new Board members about this project.

Ms. Sanchez said we will set the meeting of the Subcommittee and Ms. Martin for this Friday the 15th at 11:00 am at her office.

4. EDUCATION/EMPLOYMENT

Chair Calvert said the initiative we talked about with having an employer network will go to this Subcommittee.

Ms. Sanchez said we are trying to do a Resolution on that topic.

Chair Calvert said let's put Phillip Hernandez on this with Mr. Scargall for now.

Mr. Scargall updated the new Board members on the Subcommittees and how they operate.

5. HOMELESS VETERAN SUPPORT

Mr. Hayes said he would like to be on this Subcommittee.

Ms. Martin and Ms. Kuperschmidt volunteered to be community members.

Mr. Scargall asked can we send something out to ask for community members for all the Subcommittees.

Ms. Sanchez said lets go through the planning process first and see if we need more community members.

She will intersect with this Subcommittee.

6. EMERGENCY RELIEF

Ms. Sanchez asked for adjunct member to be added to this Subcommittee if a conflict of interest should arise.

Mr. Scargall described how this Subcommittee operates.

Mr. Hayes asked where does the money for this come from.

Chair Calvert said the money comes from the check off on the State tax forms for the cemetery. A percentage comes to us until we get a certain amount and we are not close to that. We are working on setting up a 501c3 so that we can be sustainable.

Mr. Keelin asked would that be something that would be done by email.

Mr. Scargall said it is all done by email. It is a pretty immediate thing. We try to give an answer within 24 hours.

Mr. Keelin volunteered to be this Subcommittee.

Chair Calvert said we want to help Veterans in the community. We have a contract with the VIC and Ms. Martin is employed by them under contract. We want to probatively find these people instead of waiting for them. It has proved to be a very good contract. We are a community safety net.

Mr. Keelin said he has a person he met years ago and he keeps in contact with

him for events that we do.

Chair Calvert said any resources are good.

Ms. Sanchez asked would the name Community Events and Communication work.

Everyone agreed to that name.

MOTION A motion was made by Ms. Seaton, seconded by Mr. Hayes, to approve the Subcommittee list as amended.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

C. DISCUSS AND APPROVE VAB APPLYING FOR STAND DOWN GRANT

Ms. Sanchez said Phillip Hernandez approached her couple of weeks ago about applying for this grant. Phillip Chavez is running the Stand Down Grants. It is a Federal grant that releases funding of \$5,000 to \$10,000 to put on a Homeless Veterans Health Summit by partnering with others in the community to offer free services to Veterans. The funding pays for that. \$5,000 is for a one day event and \$10,000 for a 2 day event.

Chair Calvert asked is it different from the one happening in November.

Ms. Sanchez said it is the same basically. Phillip Chavez does the one in the winter. Phillip Hernandez is talking about doing one in the spring. It is an open proposal. This Board is eligible to apply. Mr. Hernandez said he thought it would be a great PR campaign and good for the homeless Veterans we serve. The priority is homeless Veterans.

Chair Calvert asked what is the feeling of the Board.

Ms. Seaton asked would we be the lead in organizing the event.

Ms. Sanchez said yes.

Mr. Scargall said it is a heavy lift. Until they moved it we have been active. It is a big undertaking. Let's postpone this until the next meeting when we can look at grant criteria. The most important piece is where to have it.

Ms. Sanchez said you will have the City backing you on this as well.

Mr. Scargall said he would like to table this until the next meeting.

Chair Calvert asked where would we have this and what is the time commitment.

Mr. Hayes asked how do we know they are Veterans and why do they not use the VA. Why would they get health care from non VA docs.

Mr. Scargall said this is for homeless people living on the street. All the Veterans service organizations would be there. The VA comes as well.

Chair Calvert said these are for people not in the system and not connected with these services. They are not connected or don't want to be.

Ms. Kuperschmidt said a lot of them want to drop off of the face of the earth.

Mr. Keelin said in his experience someone is there with a computer and can access records.

Chair Calvert said one purpose is to get people into the system and get the help they need. A lot of them don't want to be in the system until they get to a certain age.

Ms. Seaton said or a crisis happens in their life and they need help.

Mr. Hayes said he has his VA card and he uses Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Now the VA charges a co-pay based on the individual's resources. The Veterans get penalized by the VA.

Chair Calvert said that has happened to him as well.

Mr. Scargall said an issue that came to him was about VA healthcare and he was not aware of it. The Veteran had an operation here. He was on vacation and had complications associated with the surgery. In California he went to local VA hospital and they denied him and told him he had to go to New Mexico for help. He read the handbook and it says Veterans can go to the nearest emergency facility. He had to go to a non VA hospital and spent 6 days in care there. He got a \$65,000 bill. MCA is picking up half but the VA is not helping. He has run into several situations like that.

Mr. Scargall said lets put this on the agenda for next month and look into it and get a definitive answer.

Mr. Hayes said it sounds like a lawsuit.

D. DISCUSS AND APPROVE VAB FACT SHEET

Chair Calvert said the draft VAB Fact Sheet is in the meeting packet. He and Ms. Sanchez worked on this.

Mr. Keelin said on the Veterans recognition you will see a lot more of us on this page. That is our thing.

Chair Calvert said if it is something the American Legion Riders are in charge of we will help publicize it, but we can't take credit for it unless we sponsor it.

Mr. Scargall said we need to add our participation in the Veterans Day parade.

Mr. Keelin said we are going to do the Forgotten Heros Program for 10 Veterans on September 22nd. This is for 10 unclaimed Veterans. It will be at the National Cemetery.

Mr. Scargall asked are we doing cardboard boxes again.

Mr. Keelin said the funeral homes stepped up and they are doing plastic coffins.

Mr. Keelin said we are also doing a service for another unclaimed Veteran on Tuesday. Both are coming up next week. The service on Tuesday will be at 1:00 pm at Riverside and then we will do an escort to the National Cemetery. We will be doing taps, a flag and firing. If the military shows up they will do the flag, if not we will do it.

Mr. Scargall asked could the Veterans Resource Center receive the flag.

Mr. Keelin said he will check. We would like the City to participate on the 22nd and on Tuesday.

Ms. Seaton said the Women Veterans participate in that when there is a female Veteran. One of these Veterans is a woman and we will be going.

Mr. Hayes asked what is the attire.

Mr. Keelin said anyone participating will be in uniform. For anyone else civilian clothes or organizational shirts are fine. The ceremony on the 22nd will be at 10:30 am at the National Ceremony.

Ms. Seaton asked how many are from Santa Fe.

Mr. Keelin said he has no idea. They are all from New Mexico.

Chair Calvert asked would you want to recognize us as a partner.

Mr. Keelin said we can.

Chair Calvert said it is up to you guys.

Mr. Keelin said it is too late to get that into the brochures. We might be able to do something.

Chair Calvert said he will talk to the organizer.

Mr. Scargall said for the Tuesday one we would give the flag dignity at the Center.

Mr. Keelin said he will ask the National Cemetery.

Mr. Scargall said we partnered with the Community College to host the first ever Veteran Housing Forum. That should be added to the fact sheet.

Mr. Hayes said he saw there is to be a Veterans Job Fair in Santa Fe.

Chair Calvert said we had employers here to help them know how to approach Veterans for the event. The Job Fair in Albuquerque was something that we partnered on.

Ms. Sanchez said she needs information on community service work that has been done or any Board members and any recognition you received for community work you did.

Ms. Seaton asked did Board members clean the park for the Vietnam Veterans event.

Mr. Scargall said Mr. Dettlebach got some people to polish the Memorial and get the name added.

Chair Calvert said he stood in for the Mayor at the National Cemetery to read a Proclamation.

Mr. Scargall said he stood in for Mayor for the VFW Scholarship Program.

Mr. Scargall said the scholarships have led to one graduation so far. There will be more. It was an associates in computer science.

Ms. Seaton said we helped a Veteran who was a graduate of the Indian School to get tickets when Michelle Obama spoke there.

Chair Calvert said under emergency services do we have a contract with the VIC and thereby with Ms. Martin as an employee of the VIC. We may want to mention that our contract resulted in this stuff.

Mr. Hayes said he represents Veterans in court personally when someone is trying to involuntarily commit them.

Ms. Romero said your services help eliminate stress and thereby reduces erratic behavior.

Mr. Hays said County police pick up the person, drop the criminal charges and they are found incompetent to stand trial. The next move is for the State or County to ask for involuntary commitment to the New Mexico Behavioral Institute. He as their attorney stands in for them and stands up for them in court. They bring in doctors from the detention center and the person goes for 30 days or less.

Ms. Sanchez said from the future forward is there anything to highlight on the work we are doing and continue to do.

Mr. Scargall said he would like to hold a Veterans Organizations Summit to discuss the future state of Veterans in Santa Fe. What is our vision for the future. We want to honor Veterans from the past and pick up the present ones and the ones to come.

Mr. Keelin said how to bring everyone together is on his list as well.

Mr. Scargall said it has been on our list. Lets get it done.

Chair Calvert said the Veterans Business Project is for the future.

Mr. Scargall said it will be a star system for Veterans discounts, employment of Veterans and Veteran owned businesses.

Mr. Scargall said the City of Santa Fe recognition of its own Veterans is a project for the future.

Ms. Sanchez said Resolutions as well.

E. DISCUSS VETERAN INCARCERATION LETTER/NEED

Chair Calvert said the letter from this Veteran is in your packet.

Mr. Scargall said this is on the agenda to talk about what exists in the community for support.

Mr. Keelin said after reading the email his understanding is they are treating it just as any other Veteran. They have to reapply for everything. Benefits stop 30 days after incarceration. There is nothing specific for Veterans who have been incarcerated.

Ms. Seaton said the key is education on the process of what they need to do in the future.

Chair Calvert said he agrees with Ms. Seaton. We are supposed to help Veterans from the Santa Fe area. We don't know where these guys came from. We could coordinate with the State DVA to have part of their out processing be a briefing on that sort of thing if they are a Veteran.

Ms. Seaton said it should be a bit ahead of out processing. A month before release.

Chair Calvert said or set up a contact with someone so they can hit the ground running.

Ms. Seaton asked do we consider them in our jurisdiction if they are in the County jail.

Mr. Hayes said he looked him up and he is in jail for sex crimes. He will be in there for awhile.

Chair Calvert said maybe our response could be to see if the State DVA could work with Corrections to coordinate this.

Ms. Seaton said maybe there is a Veterans Service Person there where he is.

Chair Calvert said we could coordinate statewide. There are other issues they need to prepare for as well.

Mr. Hayes asked is there a distinction from violent crimes and others.

Mr. Keelin said he does not think so.

Chair Calvert said he will check into this.

Ms. Sanchez said please give her an update on that when you look into it.

6. OLD BUSINESS

None.

7. COMMENTS FROM CHAIR AND ADVISORY MEMBERS

Mr. Hayes said thank you for bringing him on.

Chair Calvert said thank you for being here. We are making progress now and we want to keep building on that.

Mr. Keelin said ditto.

8. STAFF COMMENTS

Ms. Sanchez said the VIC needs to have professional liability insurance to receive the moneys from the City. Ms. Martin will you remind them about that please.

Ms. Sanchez reported that your reappointments are complete. Also our office will be handling the W9s from now on.

Ms. Sanchez said with Ms. Seaton's hard work we have a form and will start the demographic information data collection process. Thank you Dorothy.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. VIC UPDATE

Ms. Martin gave a brief report.

Ms. Sanchez said she will not be the Liaison for this Board after the next couple of months. She will continue with the City but will be doing higher level policy work. You will have a new person. The position will be closing on Monday. She will be here until the new person is hired. It will take 2 or 3 months to get someone on board.

Chair Calvert said it would be nice to have a VAB business card with no name on it, but that we can use.

Ms. Sanchez said she will check on that.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board the meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Chris Calvert, Chair



Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer