

Veterans Advisory Board Minutes
January 22, 2019
City Hall, Risk Management Training Room, Suite 2300

Open Meeting: The Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m., and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Member at Large #1
Military Order of the Purple Heart
DAV Chapter 10
Marine Corps League
Member at Large #2
American Legion Post 10
MOAA
United Military Women of the South West
Special Forces Association
VFW Post 3242
VFW Post 10124
Vietnam Veterans
Member at Large #3
(A quorum of appointed members was present)

Roll Call
2019

Lawrence Orvis, Chairman
Rod Gajewski, Vice Chairman
Sam Bothern
Carol Gaines
Hector Sanchez
Ed Torres
Christine Sautter
Karen Woods
Kyle Trout
Jesse Addison
Patrick Ramirez
Fred Schneider
Mike Cano

Approval of Agenda for today's meeting was motioned by Mike Cano and 2nd by Kyle Trout. All members that are present voted unanimously.

Introduction of Guests:

NM Dept. Veterans Service
Mayor's Liaison
American Legion
VHA- LC CBOC
VHA- LC CBOC
American Legion Auxiliary
DAC HHS
DAC HHS
VVA
Peak Behavioral
Honor Flight
El Paso VA
LC Vet Center

James Turner
Dolores Archuleta
Lester Palmer
Crystal Davis-Whited
Ben Gilbert
Patricia Torres
Athena Huckaby
Nai Walter
Bruce Fonnest
Jourdan Norman
Arnold Diaz
Michael Amaral
Dale Lawrence

City of Las Cruces Staff:

Eric Enriquez
Ted Sweetser

Board Coordinator
Fire Marshal

Acceptance of Minutes, Mike Cano motioned to approve the minutes from October and November, 2018 meetings. Ed Torres 2nd the motion, all members that are present voted unanimously.

Old Business-NONE

New Business

• Elections

- **Chairman-** Fred Schneider made a motion to elect Lawrence Orvis as Chairman, 2nd by Rod Gajewski. All members voted unanimously.
- **Vice Chairman-** Lawrence Orvis made a motion to elect Kyle Trout as Vice Chairman, 2nd by Rod Gajewski. All members voted unanimously.
- **Secretary-** Lawrence Orvis made a motion to elect Edward Torres as Secretary, 2nd by Mike Cano. All members voted unanimously.

Public Participation

- **VA Updates- Michael Amaral** worked out issues regarding the bus shelter with the property owners. Now they are waiting on the City to complete installation. The government furlough stalled movement with the curb cutout to the new clinic. The clinic is losing one of their providers. She is going to be with family. There should be another provider in her place before she leaves.
- **Veteran Benefits- JR Turner** gave an update regarding burial benefits. DD 214 document is what secures your burial with the funeral homes. All veterans have basic burial benefits available to them- burial in a national cemetery, no charge for the plot there, a headstone or marker in any cemetery, and a burial flag to be presented to family members. Burial allowance of \$300 is for veterans and pension recipients for non-service related deaths. A \$2,000 allowance is for veterans with a service connected death or the veteran is 100% disabled for more than 10 years.
- **DAC HHS Narcan Presentation- Athena Huckaby** gave a quick presentation regarding opioid overdose prevention. There have been 166 deaths in Dona Ana County in the last 5 years, compared to 2,090 deaths in the state. Florida had 6,000 deaths just last year. 72,000 deaths nationwide last year. You are now more likely to die of an opioid overdose than in a car accident. There were 584 ER visits due to opioid overdoses in Dona Ana County during that 5 year period. Narcan is used to temporarily displace the opioid to restore the respiratory drive; it doesn't remove opioids from the body. Trainings to use Narcan are available through the HHS offices.
- **Dolores Archuleta** the Bataan Death March participation numbers will be capped at 10,000. It was suggested to include, in the registration packets, an invitation or flyer inviting participants to visit Veterans Park. Sonya Delgado approved to have the flyer printed, along with a site map of the park. It was also suggested to have guides available at the park to talk about each of the respective monuments.
- **Bruce Fonest** Welcome Home Vietnam Veteran Day event will be held on March 30th. They're hoping to have curb parking and one lane open for traffic. The parking lot at Veterans Park will only be used for handicap parking.
- **Arnold Diaz** stated that there will be two Honor Flights this year. First flight will be May 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Second flight will be in early October. A group of previous flight

participants meet the second Tuesday of each month at the Ihop on Del Rey beginning at 9am.

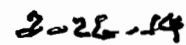
Board Member Reports

- **Carol Gaines-** New officers were nominated for their organization. There are 7 detachments of the Marine Corps League in New Mexico. The State Convention will be held in April. Toys for Tots provided toys for 4,400 children in Las Cruces and area communities. The actual count of military honors for 2018 is currently unknown. They have been busier, with 3-4 services a week, sometimes 2 in a day.
- **Christine Sautter-** MOAA will be participating in the Bataan Death March
- **Jesse Addison-** the Vet Center had a Christmas party. Post 3242 collected coloring books, crayons and water bottles.
- **Patrick Ramirez-** Friday karaoke starting at 7:30pm. Saturday pool tournaments are twice on Saturdays. All women's tournament is at 2pm and the regular tournament is at 5pm. Senior breakfast is held the 4th Sunday of the month.
- **Edward Torres-** held a fundraiser breakfast sponsored by the United Military Women of the SouthWest and American Legion Auxiliary. They will be hosting a dance on February 8th from 7-10pm. The American Legion will be celebrating their 100th Anniversary.
- **Karen Woods-** the annual spaghetti dinner will be held April 13th at the El Caldito Soup Kitchen. Proceeds are split between the soup kitchen and Community of Hope.
- **Mike Cano-** the VFW is a big sponsor of the Bataan Death March. They will have a table set up at the convention center all three days. Mr. Cano presented a Wall of Honor to possibly be placed in Veterans Park. This item was tabled for the next meeting.
- **Rod Gajewski-** The Purple Heart, in conjunction with the City, will be painting the pergola at Veterans Park before the Welcome Home ceremony.

Next Meeting: February 26, 2019

Adjournment: Mike Cano motioned to have the meeting adjourned, *unknown* 2nd the motion. All members present voted unanimously.


Name


Date