



City of Las Cruces[®]

Veterans Advisory Board Agenda

The following Agenda will be considered at a regular meeting of the Veterans Advisory Board to be held June 28, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at City Hall, Council Chambers, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

1. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum
2. Acceptance of Agenda
3. Veterans Advisory Board Minutes

Documents:

[MINUTES - MAY 24, 2022.PDF](#)

4. Recognitions
5. Veterans Advisory Board - Reports and Comments
 - Agency Reports and Updates
6. Old Business
 - Naming Veterans Clinic - update
 - Veterans Memorial Parking lot - update
 - Veterans Memorial Park - special use designation and naming
 - Garrison Flag - update
7. New Business
 - Fourth of July - events
8. Public Participation
 - Garrison Flag - information presentation; Ms. Archuleta
9. Reminders
 - July 4 - Independence Day

- July 27 - Korean War Veterans Armistice Day
- July 26 - Next Meeting

10. Adjournment

If you need an accommodation for a disability to enable you to fully participate in this event, please contact us 72 hours before this event at 528-3473/V or 528-4211/TTY.

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Veterans Advisory Board Minutes May 24, 2022

Date: May 24, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

Place: City Hall, Council Chambers; 700 N. Main., Las Cruces, NM

Board Members Present:

Karen Woods, Chair - United Military Women of the Southwest (UMWSW)
 Rod Gajewski, Vice Chair - Military Order of Purple Heart (MOPH)
 Victor Eres, Marine Corps League
 Hubert Gay, VVA, Vietnam Veterans of America
 Christine Sautter, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
 Daniel Ansbach, Special Forces Association
 Sam Bothern, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 10 (DAV)
 James Turner, Member at Large Number 1
 Mike Cano, Member at Large Number 3
 John Poland, American Legion Post 10

Board Members Absent:

Patrick Ramirez, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10124 (VFW)
 Jesse Addison, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3242 (VFW)
 Hector Sanchez, Member at Large Number 2 – Student

City Staff Present:

Eric Enriquez, Asst City Manager
 Larry Nichols, Community Development Director

<i>AGENDA ITEM</i>	<i>TIME RECORDING</i>	<i>DISCUSSIONS/CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS</i>	<i>ACTION TAKEN</i>
1. Call to Order	09:01	Chair Woods - called the meeting of the Veterans Advisory Board to order	Board acknowledged Pledge by VAB
2. Approval of Meeting Agenda	09:04	Agenda reviewed by VAB – motion to accept the agenda for May 24, 2022.	VAB unanimously approved – May, 24, 2022 meeting agenda by voice vote
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes	09:05	Minutes from May 24, 2022 reviewed by VAB motion to accept the minutes as amended typo corrections.	VAB unanimously approved – the May 24, 2022 minutes by voice vote

<p>4. Board Member Reports</p>	<p>09:11</p>	<p>Daniel Ansbach, <i>Special Forces Association</i> - nothing to report for this month</p> <p>Hector Sanchez, <i>Member at Large Number 2 – student</i> - Stated that for November, Military Appreciation week, they will be having ROTC celebrating 125 years at NMSU. Mr. Sanchez also state that, there would will be more information on partnering with ROTC program to celebrate their ROTC program and hopefully it will be here for another 125 years.</p> <p>Victor Eres, <i>Marine Corps League</i> - Stated that they participated and scored high on their Honor Guard Conference. Mr. Eres also stated that on April 21st they had six funerals since their last meeting on April 26. Their detachment participated on the Run for the Wall and they were gracious enough to provide them a plaque for their many years of participation. Memorial Day activities will be placing flags at Masonic Cemetery, and they will have participation in their ceremonies at Rio Grade River at Hillcrest. Mr. Eres also mention that they will have a Marine Core Ball plan for this year and will be Thursday, November 10th at Elks Lodge and more information will be forthcoming, hopefully by next meeting.</p> <p>Sam Bothern, <i>DAV Chapter 10</i> - Stated that they are currently in the middle of their spring/summer fundraiser at Golder Corral and will go on through the 30th. Also on the 28th they will be placing flags at the cemetery in Dona Ana and next month they will be attending their state convention in Albuquerque.</p> <p>John Poland, <i>American Legion Post 10</i> - Stated that they are sponsoring a student who had just finished his junior year at Mesilla Valley Christian School to attend the American Legion Boys State at Eastern NM University in Portales. In the process he will also earn 3 college credits for attending this course. Mr. Poland also mention that they hope to have more boys coming forward to complete their junior year so they can attend American Legion Boys State in the future. It was not held for the last two years due to COVID. Mr. Poland also mention that he requested a \$1,000 donation to the Veterans Memorial Park parking lot, and it was approved by the American Legion Executive Committee. Mr. Poland mention that they provided breakfast to 310 motorcycle riders that were passing through Las Cruces on</p>	<p>Read into record</p>
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their annual run for the wall and that they were very appreciative. This coming Sunday they will be conducting a Memorial Day ceremony on May 29th at Saint Joseph Cemetery, which is located 100 S. Espina St., anybody can participate or observe.

Hubert Gay,

Vietnam Veterans of America

- Stated that on the 29th they will begin placing flags at 3:00pm at the Hillcrest Cemetery on West Picacho and anybody is welcome to come help. Mr. Gay also mention that they had a food fundraiser in Rinconada which was held on May 22nd., this was for the firefighters and their families in Ruidoso but there was no need for it at that moment, therefore it was donated to the soup kitchen, Gospel Rescue and those paragons. Mr. Gay stated that on September 30th through October 2nd., event, Run for the Honor Flag.

Rod Gajewski,

MOPH

- Stated that Chris Sautter, invited him to the Military Officers luncheon and the NM Secretary of Veterans Affairs was there and the representative from the State Office. Mr. Gajewski comment, as members of the group they need to contact these people at the State Office to coordinate with them just like they do with Federal VA Office. Mr. Gajewski also mention that the Purple Heart Veterans will be putting the lighted cups on the wall at 6:30pm on Memorial Day and they are not having a regular full ceremony in reference to COVID situation. But next year they will have a full ceremony and few members of the group will be there, along with Karen Wood, and the Las Cruces JROTC has volunteered to put cups on the wall.

Christine Sautter,

MOAA

- Stated that they had their last meeting last week of the year with Military Officers and Secretary Sonya Smith, who was present as a guest speaker. Secretary Smith discussed the issue about the possibility of the CBOC closing and other issues as well. Secretary Smith would like to hear from the members of any issues or concerns, and how she can help.

Mike Cano,

Member at Large 3

- no report this month

James Turner,

Member at Large 1

- Stated that the Run for the Wall was a great turnout. Mr. Turner announce a certificate of appreciation to Gwen Revie, for her endearing work in repairing the flag and making sure that it is good to go for the next time.

		<p>Karen Woods, <i>UMWSW</i></p> <p>- Stated that United Military women in Southwest will be placing their annual flag bases at the Columbarium's. Ms. Woods praised to the American Legion and Post 1124 for their hospitality to the Run for the Wall riders.</p> <p>Ms. Woods address something that happed at City Council meeting on the 16th of May. One of the council members made some comments and they were not, very well received by veteran community. The comment made was, 'Veterans, really, in essence should not be part of the Las Cruces police Department because they are killers.' Ms. Woods expressed that they take very much offense to that and would like to let Mr. Enriquez and Mr. Nichols know that it was totally uncalled for. This member also gave reference that she has family that are also veterans and she 'knows' how tough it is. Ms. Woods also expressed that 'not until you walk a mile in the police officers' footsteps, please don't judge them, not openly in a form as such'. Ms. Woods would like to recommend to Mr. Nichols and Mr. Enriquez to take to the mayor their total disagreements with those statements that were made. And would also like a written note of apology for the insult made to the veterans.</p> <p>Mr. Enriquez agreed to pass the statement made by Ms. Woods to the mayor and the city manager as requested.</p> <p>Hector Sanchez stated that, veterans are a protected class in the United States, and they are protected from discrimination, particularly discrimination against employment.</p>	
<p>5. Public Participation</p>	<p>09:41</p>	<p>Franco Granillo, Parks Administrator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Run for the wall was a great event. - In the process of new signs for the park for 'no scatting' should be installed hopefully no later than 4th of July. - List is available for groups to maintain the park on a monthly basis. <p>Rogelio Maldonado, State Commander of the NM Veterans of Foreign Wars</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Was elected to speak for the Veterans of Foreign War, got to see videos of the comments that were made about vets. 'Civilians have no understating of what vets had to go through to protect their country.' - July 1st will take the position with the Vets of Foreign War for Legislator for NM. Will bring up issues regarding statements that were made. 	<p>Read into record</p>

Jesus Morales,

El Paso, VA. Caregiver Support Program

- Two programs to offer:
- Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, this program is only available to those vets that served after September 11th an inquiry injury or before May 7th of 1975 prior an inquiry injury.

The other program, General Caregiver support services,

- These programs are to give services for those vets that need assistance with mental or health issues. Veterans can join the program while waiting for the application to process.

- Caregivers First, will be holding a 2-part class.

June 13, first class and June 17, second class. These classes are for caregivers, to help them gain control to assist their veterans using the VA system. This will be held at the Las Cruces, CBOC.

Kimberly Figueroa,

Social Worker for Caregiver Social Support

- New to the program, excited to work with caregivers. Any questions, please reach out to our program.

Don Armstrong,

Program Assistant for Medical Foster Home

- Working with different programs from Caregiver Support Program, Vet. Center, New Mexico Department of Health, NM Vet. and Veterans Affair.

All programs will be going to Chaparral to do an outreach.

The program is a home-based primary care, is a team that helps support a veteran that lives in a medical foster home.

This will be for any vet in need even if is a homeless vet. The Caregiver Support Program will offer services and support for that vet.

- Medical Foster Home, also available to a veteran.

- Friday, May 27th having an outreach in Chaparral, along with Vet. Center and Dept. of Vet Affairs.

Melanie Goodman,

Representor for Senator Ben Ray Lujan from LC

- About 2 months ago VA announced the proposed closure of over 170 outpatient clinics around the country. Four of those are in NM up north.

- Senator Lujan spoke to Secretary McDonough about this issue and invited him to New Mexico.

Next week Secretary McDonough will be a holding a listening session in Gallup.

- Congress passed an omnibus bill for fiscal year 22, it provides \$97.5 billion for VA medical care. This will be more funding for mental health care, rural health initiatives, opioid abuse prevention and for Women's Health care. And for homeless veterans.

		<p>- Senator also fought for funds for Veterans Crisis Lines or for suicide prevention and medical prosthetics research programs.</p> <p>- Senator cosponsored Major Richard Starr Act, which allows a vet with a combat related disability to receive retirement pay without reductions.</p> <p>Susan Smith, Supervisor with the Las Cruces CBOC with VA clinic, – an introduction</p> <p>Ed Torres, Vice Commander for Department of NM American Legion – Need to address the issue that happened May 16th. An apology should be made verbally and written.</p> <p>Dolores Archuleta, Chair of the Veterans Memorial Wall – Would like to be put on the next Agenda and give the history of Garrison Flag.</p> <p>Larry Nichols, Community Development, Director – Run for the wall was a great turn out. The route commander “Capt. America”, personally tanked Larry for his address.</p>	
6. Action	10:12	<p>Karen Woods, - Name Modification to Veterans Memorial Park</p> <p>Rod Gajewski - Motion to rename the Veterans Memorial Park to Veterans Memorial. Form needs to be sign by VAB members to vote in favor.</p> <p>Second by VABM - Mike Cano</p> <p>Larry Nichols - Will be assisting the VAB in filling out the requirements for the city manager’s policy. Once complete, it it will be sent to the Park Advisory Board for recommendation and then to City Manager’s Office to forward to the City Council.</p>	VAB unanimously approved – designation as “special Use park” and Renaming the Veterans Memorial Park to Veterans Memorial
7. Old Business	10:14	<p>Karen Woods, - Update, naming of the veteran’s clinic. Sill working with legislators to get it complete. As of now, on hold.</p> <p>Rod Gajewski - Huber Gay, James Turner, and Rod, met with City Manager this past Wednesday to discuss about the park. City Manager is in favor of the items that are being</p>	

		requested. It was a good meeting.	
7. New Business:	10:18	<p>Larry Nichols - Purple Heart Signage updates and presentation giving the status, accountability and condition of the signage.</p> <p>Eric Enriquez - no comments</p>	
8. Reminders:	10:26	<p>May 30 – Memorial Day</p> <p>June 14 – Flag Day</p> <p>June 19 – Father’s Day</p> <p>Next meeting June 28, 2022</p>	
9. Adjournment	10:31	Chair Woods , requested motion to adjourn	VAB unanimously approved by voice vote