



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 July 26, 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:

[VAB MINUTES FOR JUNE 28, 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; PARD Director
7. New Business
8. Public Participation
 - United Health Care
9. Reminders
 - July 27 - Korean War Veterans Armistice Day
 - August 7 - Purple Heart Day
 - August 23 - Next VAB 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 June 28, 2022

Date: June 28, 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
 Daniel Ansbach, Special Forces Association
 Sam Bothern, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 10 (DAV)
 James Turner, Member at Large Number 1
 Hector Sanchez, Member at Large Number 2 – Student

Board Members Absent:

Patrick Ramirez, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10124 (VFW)
 Jesse Addison, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3242 (VFW)
 Mike Cano, Member at Large Number 3
 Christine Sautter, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
 John Poland, American Legion Post 10

City Staff Present:

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

AGENDA ITEM	TIME RECORDING	DISCUSSIONS/CONCLUSIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTION TAKEN
1. Call to Order	09:07	Chair Woods - called the meeting of the Veterans Advisory Board to order	Board acknowledged Pledge by VAB
2. Approval of Meeting Agenda	09:10	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	09:12	Minutes from May 24, 2022 reviewed by VAB motion to accept the minutes	VAB unanimously approved – the May 24, 2022 minutes by voice vote

<p>4. Veterans Advisory Board – Reports and Comments</p>	<p>09:15</p>	<p>Hector Sanchez, <i>Member at Large Number 2 – student</i> - nothing to report for this month</p> <p>Victor Eres, <i>Marine Corps League</i> - Stated that they provided 14 funerals since May 25th, and they provided a color guard for the Juneteenth ceremony at Convection Center. And they will provide one color guard for the Electric light parade and one-color guard for the 4th of July fireworks display.</p> <p>Sam Bothern, <i>DAV Chapter 10</i> - nothing to report for this month</p> <p>Daniel Ansbach, <i>Special Forces Association</i> - Stated that they had an enchilada dinner, and it was fairly successful. They served almost 250 plates.</p> <p>Hubert Gay, <i>Vietnam Veterans of America</i> - Stated that they are still having their food drive first Sunday of every month. The third will be at Save Mart. Also, they had a successful food drive at Sonoma Ranch last month. And will have another one on the 3rd Sunday of this month in Rinconada.</p> <p>Rod Gajewski, <i>MOPH</i> - Stated that their monthly meeting which is normally scheduled for the first Monday of the month will be held on Friday, July 8th and anybody is welcome to come. Mr. Gajewski, also mention that Sisbarro is having their quarterly breakfast meeting on July the 23rd, it has been a great success and they have been donating money to various veterans’ groups. Mr. Gajewski encourage everyone to attend those meeting on Saturday, July 23rd at 8:00 AM.</p> <p>James Turner, <i>Member at Large 1</i> - Stated that Garrison Flag dates will be July 4th, and the Korean War Veterans Armistice Day on July 27th, Mr. Turner also mention that they finally put the old flag to rest, and they had the flag repaired numerous times by Gwen Revie, who did a great job. Mr. Turner presented an updated certificate to Ms. Revie, for her work over the years in repairing and keeping the flag in order. Mr. Turner also mentioned that they have a flag ordered and still waiting for the flag to arrive, should take between 13 to 14 weeks. And maybe it will be here by the next flag raising.</p>	<p>Read into record</p>
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<p>5. Old Business</p>	<p>09:34</p>	<p>Naming Veterans Clinic – Karen Woods,</p> <p>- Ms. Woods stated that she only has a small update on the renaming of the CBOC, as of right now its bobble down now and a lot of red tape.</p> <p>Veterans Memorial Parking lot – Eric Enriquez, <i>Assistant City Manager</i></p> <p>- Stated that they are continuing to seek the funding and on next month’s meeting they will have a presentation from Public Works and Parks and Rec, on the parking lot. They will discuss some different thoughts and ideas of funding sources. Mr. Enriquez will have better updates and information at next month’s meeting.</p>	

		<p>Veterans Memorial Park, Special use designation and naming – Larry Nichols, - Made a presentation regarding the ‘Special use designation and a naming modification for the Veterans Memorial Park’</p> <p>Ms. Woods asked about the extra acres if they are useable.</p> <p>Mr. Nichols explained that no plans have been made for that specific parcel. Mr. Nichols stated that the park is not just what is developed at this time, it is a much larger parcel of land. That in fact it is nearly 14 acres total. And for the entire 14 acres to be developed, it would require design planning and eventually construction on whatever it may become.</p> <p>Mr. Gay would like to know, what Mr. Nichols meant about usage for large family gatherings?</p> <p>Mr. Nichols explained that by large families, it would be for a community family, to have a family picnic or something of that nature at the Veterans Memorial Park. Gatherings not as large sport events, sports practice, concerts, or similar.</p> <p>Mr. Gay also asked if the park is still going to have to book or get a permit to use.</p> <p>Mr. Nichols explained that the purpose of the designation as a special use park would limit the type of park uses. Certain activities would be removed from that list that is currently available for use by renting.</p>	
<p>6. Recognitions</p>	<p>09:47</p>	<p>Karen Woods, - Presented a letter of appreciation to recognize Ms. Carol Gaines for all her enduring work that Ms. Gaines gave in her tenure at the Veteran’s Advisory Board.</p>	
<p>7. New Business</p>	<p>09:51</p>	<p>Fourth of July events – Karen Woods, - Stated that they have been no updates for the 4th of July parade. Ms. Woods asked Mr. Nichols for any updates.</p> <p>Mr. Nichols expressed that he had no updated information, but he will check into it.</p> <p>Ms. Woods stated that the announcement was in the bulleting and is the first time Ms. Woods sees it publicly advertised and it is posted in in a small corner. Ms. Woods would like to know if this will be an electric light parade.</p> <p>- Mr. Enriquez stated that there will be some events that will take</p>	

		<p>place on the 4th of July, coordinated with the City of Las Cruces and NMSU as well, for the displays. Mr. Enriquez also mention that he does not have all the information for the electric light parade at this time but will obtain it and then he will send it out through e-mail to the board members.</p>	
<p>8. Public Participation</p>	<p>09:56</p>	<p>Jesus Morales Sarah (?) El Paso, VA. Caregiver Support Program - Will be having their Annual Caregiver Summit on August 4th this will be virtual from 8 to 12. Topic for the summit is ‘Suicide Prevention’ they encourage providers and veterans to come and get information and resources. - Offer safe training four times a year, quarterly. For caregivers who are unprepared.</p> <p>Rod Gajewski, asked to Ms. Sarah and Mr. Morales if they ever seen or used the app called PTSD Coach, which the app is used in Mesilla Valley Hospice for the veteran’s program.</p> <p>Ms. Sarah stated that she used to have the app but there is another app called COVID Coach which helps reduce any anxiety or depressions by different breathing techniques.</p> <p>Mr. Morales reminded everyone that the Annual Caregiver Summit will be held on August 4th from 8-12 and will be virtual. Miss Cassandra Gandara will be speaking at the event. Mr. Morales also explained that the summit is mainly to inform not only the VA providers, but Community providers about the importance of suicide prevention and the resources available to veterans from Las Cruces as well as El Paso.</p> <p>Dawn Armstrong, Program Support Assistant for HBPC - Crystal will have updates next month about the CBOC - Supported the Pride parade in El paso. Will have another parade in October, more information to follow. - Next month, July 15th El Paso VA is giving new campaigns to advertise what the programs are doing for the vets. More information to follow.</p> <p>Melanie Goodman, Works for Senator Ben Ray Lujan LC - Updates, after collective objections by members of the delegation, the VA announced that all four CBOC in Northern NM will remain open. (Good news) - Senators invited VA Secretary, McDonough to New Mexico. He is currently in the state and meeting with tribal veterans in Gallup and also had briefings in Health Care Administrator in Albuquerque as well as the vet center staff and taking a look at the Santa Fe National Cemetery, which is running out of space.</p>	<p>Read into record</p>

Ms. Woods comment, if secretary of NM of Veterans Affairs is included on these briefings.

Ms. Goodman stated that they work closely with the Cabinet Secretary and when senator has his meetings with veterans up in Northern New Mexico specifically in Gallup and Las Vegas related to the impending closure, Secretary of NM of Veterans Affairs is part of those meetings as well as NM VA Health care director.

- Ms. Goodman gave a personal thank you, on behalf of Senator Lujan to Carol Revie, for her exemplary leadership and for being a role model.

Franco Granillo,

Parks Administrator

- stated that will keep with updates to Ms. Woods and Mr. Hubert about the signage.

- electric light parade has been put on social media, newspaper, bulletin and across the social media. Mr. Granillo will speak to his staff about other routes of advertising.

Mr. Gajewski asked if staff reports or takes pictures on anything that has to do with unusual damage or cleanup necessary at veteran's park.

Mr. Granillo explained that they have four members for maintenance on north side of town and one crew leader in place ready for cleanup. They do require to take pictures or video if necessary but times they just start working on it right away and they forget the take pictures. Mr. Granillo will remind to his staff.

Lester Dale Palmer,

- Would like to have minutes available before the meeting

Bill Hawkins,

Veterans Parade Committee

- After having a meeting about the parade, for next time they would like to start planning a little bit earlier, usually the planning starts from August or September. The next meeting will be July 26, after the VAB meeting.

- The decision for the next parade will be Saturday, November 5th, the staging will start at 9:00 and the parade will follow at 11:00 and it will be the normal rout. The theme of the parade will be 'Welcome Home Vietnam Vets'

- At this time, they are having some difficulty narrowing down grand Marshals, normally Marshals are selected from a pool of World War II veterans and Korean War Veterans, but the group is smaller. Asking VAB members to look for veterans who they would like to nominate, and a nomination form will be sent out.

- Mr. Turner thanked Mr. Hawkins for all the work that he does.

		<p>- Mr. Enriquez thanked Mr. Hawkins and let him know that the Farmers Market Group has already been addressed, it is going to be schedule and it's been taken care of on behalf of the city.</p> <p>Scott (?) Health Care Navigator and housed the homeless vets at Community of Hope - nothing to report, just an introduction</p> <p>Garrison Flag – information presentation by Dolores Archuleta Chair of the Veterans Memorial Committee - Spoke about City's Garrison Flag history</p> <p>Mr. Nichols appreciated Ms. Archuleta for the different aspects of the history of the Garrison flag and thanked Ms. Archuleta for the presentation.</p> <p>Mr. Nichols also added that a purchase order has been processed and the agency making the flag is has been notified.</p> <p>Mr. Enriquez stated that there is a delay, and the delivery will take about 15 weeks by the time the flag will come in, but the flag has been ordered and paid for.</p> <p>Mr. Enriquez also stated that he has information about the electric parade. It will be on July 3rd at 9:00pm starting at Apodaca Park, there is also a 5K run starts at 7:30 and on the fourth of July at 6:00 pm events will start at NMSU 6:00pm following display of fireworks at 9:00pm.</p> <p>Ms. Woods stated that for next time please keep VAB members informed.</p>	
9. Reminders:	10:10	<p>July 4 – Independence Day</p> <p>July 27 – Korean War Veterans Armistice Day</p> <p>July 26 – Next meeting</p>	
10. Adjournment	10:14	Rod Gajewski , requested motion to adjourn	VAB unanimously approved by voice vote