# Veterans Advisory Board Minutes February 22, 2022

**Date:** February 22, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.  
**Place:** City Hall, Council Chambers; 700 N. Main, Las Cruces, NM  

**Members Present:**  
Karen Woods, Chair - UMWSW, United Military Women of the Southwest  
Rod Gajewski, Vice Chair - MOPH, Military Order of Purple Heart  
Victor Eres, Marine Corps League  
Hubert L. Gay, VVA, Vietnam Veterans of America  
Christine Sautter, MOAA,  
Daniel Ansbach, Special Forces Association  
Jesse Addison, VFW Post 3242 – Not present  
Patrick Ramirez, VFW Post 10124  
Sam Bothern, DAV Chapter 10  
James (JR) Turner, Member at Large 1  
Hector Sanchez, Member at Large 2 – Student  
Mike Cano, Member at Large 3  

**City Staff Present:**  
Eric Enriquez, Asst City Manager  
Larry Nichols, Community Development Director  

## AGENDA ITEM  
TIME RECORDING | DISCUSSIONS/CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS | ACTION TAKEN
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1. Call to Order | 11:30 | Chair Woods called the meeting of the Veterans Advisory Board to order | Board acknowledged Pledge by VAB
2. Approval of Meeting Agenda | 13:55 | Public Posted February 22, 2022, Agenda reviewed by VAB - motion at accept the agenda as amended change election title to “Chair” and “Vice Chair” in lieu “Pres and Vice Pres.” (VBM Grajewski) Motion by VABM - Mike Cano Second by VABM - James Turner | VAB unanimously approved - Feb 22,2022 meeting agenda by voice vote
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes | 14:30 | Minutes reviewed by VAB motion at accept the minutes as amended Typo corrections Motion by VABM - Mike Cano Second by VABM – James Turner | VAB unanimously approved - the Jan 25, 2022, minutes by voice vote
| 4. Board Member Reports | 15:20 | Hubert Gay, Vietnam Veterans, food drive 1st Sunday of each month Welcome Home Vietnam Veteran Ceremonies March 27 & March 29, Veterans Park Lighting completed by March 7. Patrick Ramirez, VGW Post 10124 – Post is operational hosting several events dinners, breakfast and haircuts. Donations gratefully accepted Hector Sanchez – Member at Large- Still out offices, currently helping students remotely Daniel Ansbach, Special Forces Association – no report this month Sam Bothern, DAV Chapter 10 – Being re-chartered social event March 13 at 14:00 Mike Cano, Member at Large 3 – Meeting for Stand Down on Oct 22,2022 7:30 – 1:00 assistance would be appreciated Rod Gajewski, MOPH – no report this month Candlelight ceremony tentative Christine Sautter, MOAA – no report this month Karen Woods, UMWSW – Reminder Free Breakfast Discussion from the public on the parking lot. Update on renaming clinic. Victor Eres, Marine Corps League, Marine Corps Monument has been dismantled – repairs and maintenance Contacts made to host NM Color Guard Competition in Las Cruces on Apr 21, 8:00 to 15:00 | Read into record |
| 5. Public Participation | 31:05 | Bruce Fonest - Vietnam Veterans Comments re: Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans events and ceremonies on March 27 & March 29, Assistance with events appreciated.  

Dolores Archuleta, Veterans Wall Chair – comments re: a call from Hobbs, NM seeking information to create a Veterans Park in Hobbs  

Volunteered to pick up flags when needed and to display the flags. VAB members offered help.  

Montevis Price – montevis.roce@VA.gov comments re: a mental health summit on March 23,2002 at NMSU. Highlight veterans’ contribution to the community, and VA commitment to the same.  

Sonya Delgado- PARD Director - update re: Vet Park lighting and NM Legislature Funding for Vet Park Parking lot was $250,000. Check into status for Purple Heart monument lighting | Read into record |
| 6. Old Business | 56:43 | Update on Veterans Parking Lot

**ACM Enriquez** comments re: the city would re-evaluate the project to determine what work can be done with allocated funding and potential other funding sources

Status of renaming Veterans Clinic

**Chair Woods** comments re: status information

Received suggestions for name(s)

| 7. New Business: | 1:04 | **Chair Woods** appointed City staff (Nichols) to proceed with the VAB Officer Election process for VAB Chair and Vice Chair

Nominations taken from the floor for both VAB Chair and Vice Chair

Motions and Seconds to conduct the VAB elections

Update on Veterans Park lighting

| 8. Reminders: | 1:10 | Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans

March 26 & March 27

Garrison dates stated

Schedule of Events and Ceremonies presented by VVB Bruce Fonnest and Hubert Gay

JR Turner presented
| 9. Adjournment | 1:13 | Chair Woods requested motion to adjourn  
Motion by VABM Gajewski  
Second by VABM Turner | VAB unanimously approved by voice vote |

- Stand Down - Oct 2022  
- Next meeting April 26, 2022  
- Vietnam Veterans Recognition – March 29, 11:00 Elks Club  
- Mike Cano presented  
- Sam Jones presented