

CITY COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

Informational Meeting Notes

MEMBERS PRESENT:

District 1: Cris Vieyra
District 3: John A. Rodriguez
District 5: Alfredo Dominguez
District 8: Richard Jones
District 10: John Thomas

CITY STAFF:

Sandra Bagwell
Frank Sherman

A public meeting was announced and scheduled. Since there was not a quorum of 6 members, an informational meeting was held instead. No decisions were made.

Dr. Thomas mentioned that the meetings would now be held monthly, the third Monday of the month at the Municipal Plaza C room in order to accomplish what the members outlined in the January meeting. After reading the by-laws for the commission, Dr. Thomas suggested some items that the VAC could work on. Here are the items:

1. Establish a database of information regarding veteran's issues.
2. Create a quarterly newsletter and send it out to interested parties.
3. Create a referral service for veterans.
4. Reaching out to area military and veterans families.
5. And act as a liaison to their respective City Council representative.
6. Support and work with the Bexar County Veterans Advisory Committee.
7. Create a welcome home packet for both veterans and those who are leaving the military.
8. Visit local non-profit organizations that offer services to veterans to see what they do.
9. Set up an annual meeting for veteran's that is sponsored by the City of San Antonio.

Dr. Thomas asked the members to put together a list of goals and objectives that they can discuss and decide on at the next meeting.

Queta Marquez attended the meeting and introduced herself as the new Veterans Services officer for the Bexar County Veterans Services Office. She also discussed what their office did.

The welcome home packet and annual event with the local non-profits in attendance were ideas that most of the attendees liked and might want to work on.

Ms. Marquez expressed interest in partnering with the City on an annual event.

A discussion took place regarding approaching the media to let them be aware of the commission. It was determined that the City has its own spokesperson and the VAC would need to go through the Communications Department within the City.

Dr. Thomas also mentioned that he'd like local non-profits come in to speak at the meetings and gave Haven for Hope and Family Endeavors.

Another topic of discussion was what the City's policy was in the case the VAC held an event and there was a profit.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that the San Antonio National Ceremony has 13 Medal of Honor recipients buried there. He would like to hold a remembrance ceremony, sponsored by the VAC held here for those recipients.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Bagwell, Office of Military Affairs