

Agenda

Veterans Affairs Commission

Monday, September 22, 2009

3:00 -- 5:00 p.m.

Frost Bank Towers, 100 W. Houston St.
Large Conference Room-19th Floor

VAC Chairman	Richard P. Holgin, Chair
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VAC Members:	Roy Lee, Manuel S. Perez, Albert Hinojosa, John Rodriguez, Michael Wade Archer, Stephen Joseph Spear, Harvey Milton Hodnett, Jerry Puente Gonzales, Gilbert Rodriguez; Juan R. Reyna
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VAC Liaisons:	Carmelina R. Davis, Economic Development Dept.	VAC Technical Advisor: Craig Erickson, Bexar County
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Agenda Topics

3:00 P.M.

Call To Order

- I. Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Citizens to be Heard
- III. Approval of Minutes – 8/3/09 & 9/3/09

Informational Items:

- III. Update on the meeting for the proposed Alamo Honor Flight chapter in San Antonio.
- IV. Update on the meeting with the Mayor on the MOH Memorial
- V. Financial Disclosures
- VI. Commission members reappointments

Adjournment

Next VAC Meeting: November 17, 2009

COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

Minutes

Special VAC Meeting

Tuesday, September 3, 2009

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Frost Bank Plaza Building

100 W. Houston, Suite 1900

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT

Richard P. Holgin
Roy E. Lee
Harvey Milton Hodnett
Manuel S. Perez
John Rodriguez
Stephen Spear
Albert Hinojosa

ABSENT

Michael Wade Archer
Gilbert V. Rodriguez
Jerry Puente Gonzales

CITY STAFF:

Ed Davis
Robert Murdock
Frank Sherman
Carmelina Rocha Davis

OTHER AGENCIES & GUESTS:

None

Call to Order

Mr. Holgin, Chair called the monthly meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

I. Pledge of Allegiance

Members, staff, and guests recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Citizens to be Heard

None

III. Approval of Minutes

None

IV. Action Item

A presentation was made to the VAC by Tommy Green and Jim Creswell who are seeking to establish an Honor Flight Network in San Antonio.

Approximately 1,200 World War II Veterans die each day. Honor Flight Network is a non-profit organization created solely to honor America's Veterans for their sacrifices. The organization transports these Veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit and reflect on the memorials that have been established in their honor. Priority is given to the senior Veterans, WWII survivors and those who are terminally ill.

The inaugural Honor Flight took place in May of 2005. Six small planes flew out of Springfield, Ohio taking twelve World War II Veterans on a visit to the memorial in Washington, DC. In August of 2005, an ever-expanding waiting list of veterans led the transition to commercial airline carriers with the goal of accommodating as many Veterans as possible. Partnering with Honor Air in Hendersonville, North Carolina, they formed the "Honor Flight Network." Today, they continue working aggressively to expand their programs to other cities across the nation.

Their Mission Statement is to "Transport America's veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit those memorials dedicated to honor their service and sacrifices."

Their goal is to help every single Veteran in America, willing and able of getting on a plane or a bus, visit their memorial.

Top priority is given to America's most senior heroes — survivors of World War II and any veteran with a terminal illness who wishes to visit THEIR memorial. The program will naturally transition to Korean War, Vietnam War and all other veterans who served, on a chronological basis.

Since it was felt that building a memorial was important to the service and the ultimate sacrifice of America's Veterans, the Honor Flight Network believes it's equally important that they actually get to visit and experience their memorial.

Mr. Green and Mr. Creswell informed the VAC that they would like to establish a Chapter here in S.A., but need officers to establish a 501C3 and may require a \$10,000 fee. They asked the VAC if they could serve as officers of the organization and/or any other type of support.

Mr. Holgin informed the group that being an Advisory Committee to the Mayor and Council; the By-laws limited their level of involvement as a Commission. However, they would be willing to assist, as individual Veterans. Mr. Spears informed the group that he would be willing to assist, as time allowed, as he was already serving on other organizations. However, he could not serve as an officer, for the reasons previously mentioned.

Other

None

V. Adjournment

With no other business to present Mr. Spear made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Hinojosa and unanimously approved. The next meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2009.

COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

Minutes

Special VAC Meeting

Thursday, August 3, 2009

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Frost Bank Plaza Building

100 W. Houston, Suite 1900

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT

Richard P. Holgin
Roy E. Lee
Manuel S. Perez
Stephen Spear
Albert Hinojosa

ABSENT

Michael Wade Archer
John Rodriguez
Harvey Milton Hodnett
Gilbert V. Rodriguez
Jerry Puente Gonzales

CITY STAFF:

Carmelina Rocha Davis

OTHER AGENCIES & GUESTS:

Jim Cresswell
Tommy Green

Call to Order

Mr. Holgin, Chair called the monthly meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

I. Pledge of Allegiance

Members, staff, and guests recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Citizens to be Heard

None

III. Approval of Minutes

None

IV. Informational

Veterans Community Action Team (VCAT) Project Presentation

A presentation was made to the VAC by Mr. Max Burke, Project Director and Jim Palmer, Senior Policy Analyst, VCAT Project Coordinator from the ALTARUM Institute, Systems Research for Better Health on the Veterans Community Action Teams (VCAT) Mission Project.

The VCAT project is an internally funded (philanthropic) project with the goal of improving the integration of community based services for veterans and their family members. They have received the endorsement of the TVC and recommendation from TVC Chair BG (Ret) Rankin, to initiate contact in the San Antonio Veteran community. Their objective was to share information about the project and begin to build support and approval among key community veteran stakeholders.

The VCAT is looking to develop and test a sustainable, collaborative community strategy and model(s) that enhances the delivery of services from public, private, non-profit, and voluntary organizations to veterans and their families. This strategy and model will demonstrate the value of such a community-based system of care, both in terms of improving the accessibility and quality of care that is available to Veterans, improving their receipt of needed services, and quality of life and economic security outcomes for Veterans. By proving their concept, VCAT will facilitate the dissemination and use of the model in other communities.

The VACT's goal is to improve access, quality of life, and economic opportunity for Veterans and their families. They want to strengthen existing local health & social services systems and coordinate their efforts to meet the needs of veterans and their families. In partnership with the community Veteran service leaders, they plan to consult with key partners and stakeholders to identify opportunities and implement strategies to build existing strengths.

They are looking for support in the following areas:

- Key contacts with whom we they should speak in the community?
- Contact(s) at state level?
- Individuals, organizations, or potential partners recommended to speak with
For project participation?
- Can VAC participate as a member of the VCAT Advisory Committee?
- Would the VAC be willing to write a letter of support and endorsement for the VCAT project?

Mr. Burke informed the VAC that they would look to them to provide information on the process, identify areas requiring improvement, assistance with prioritizing, points of contact and for leadership. In addition, Mr. Burke informed the VAC that they would like to see a Steering Committee formulated to oversee the process when they leave.

The VAC informed the presenters that as an Advisory Committee to the Mayor and Council, the By-laws limited their level of involvement as a Commission. However, they would be willing to assist, as individual Veterans and answer any questions in their interview process.

The VCAT informed the VAC that they were not looking for an endorsement from them, but would appreciate the same level of involvement stated in the TVC letter that they received.

Mr. Holgin requested that the VCAT provide a letter specifying their specific requests from the VAC and they would get back with them.

V. Informational

VI. Other

None

VII. Adjournment

With no other business to present Mr. Lee made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez and unanimously approved. The next meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2009.