The following Agenda will be considered at a regular meeting of the Veterans Advisory Board to be held February 28k, 2023 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 - JANUARY 24, 2023.PDF
4. Recognitions
   - 4.1 - Veterans Corner - Chair
5. Board Member Reports
   - 5.1 - Board Reports
     - 5.2 - Special Forces Monument update - Rudy Reyes
     - 5.3 - City Staff comments
6. Public Participation
   - 6.1 - Public comments
7. Old Business
   - 7.1 - Status report - New parking lot; Special Use Veterans Memorial Park
8. New Business
   - 8.1 - To be announced if applicable
9. Reminders
   - 9.1 - March 25, 2023 - Vietnam Veteran Welcome Home
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.

The City of Las Cruces does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.
# Veterans Advisory Board Minutes January 24, 2023

**Date:** January 24, 2023 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)
- Victor Eres, Marine Corps League
- Sam Bothern, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 10 (DAV)
- James Turner, Member at Large Number 1
- Daniel Ansbach, Special Forces Association
- Rod Gajewski, Vice Chair - Military Order of Purple Heart (MOPH)
- Hubert Gay, VVA, Vietnam Veterans of America
- Christine Sautter, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
- Hector Sanchez, Member at Large Number 2 – Student
- John Poland, American Legion Post 10

**Board Members Absent:**
- Jesse Addison, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3242 (VFW)
- Patrick Ramirez, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10124 (VFW)
- Mike Cano, Member at Large Number 3

**City Staff Present:**
- Larry Nichols, Community Development Director

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGENDA ITEM</th>
<th>TIME RECORDING</th>
<th>DISCUSSIONS/CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
<th>ACTION TAKEN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Call to Order</td>
<td>10:05</td>
<td>Chair Woods - called the meeting of the Veterans Advisory Board to order.</td>
<td>Board acknowledged Pledge by VAB</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Approval of Agenda</td>
<td>10:08</td>
<td>Agenda reviewed by VAB – motion to accept the agenda for January 24, 2023</td>
<td>VAB unanimously approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Approval of Minutes</td>
<td>10:08</td>
<td>Minutes from November 22, 2022, reviewed by VAB motion to accept the minutes with corrections.</td>
<td>VAB unanimously approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Recognitions</td>
<td>10:08</td>
<td>Larry Nichols – announced that agendas will now have an item known as “Veterans Corner” regarding topics for the good of the order.</td>
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### 5. Elections of Officers

10:11

**Larry Nichols,**
*Community Development Director*
- Election for the Veterans Advisory Board Chair is Karen Woods.
- Christine Sautter is the newly elected vice chair for the Veterans Advisory Board.
- Mike Cano was elected to be the Secretary for the Veterans Advisory Board.

Vote taken by Ballot

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### 6. Board Member Reports

10:31

**Victor Eres,**
*Marine Corps League*
- Month of December they had 9 funerals, one color guard for Martin Luther King
- Toys for Tots program distributed toy to over 5,500 children last year
- December, they elected a new Commandant, Marine Joe Mendiola

**John Poland,**
*America Legion Post 10*
- Planning for the State’s Annual American Legion convention here in Las Cruces
- Board of directors for Honor Flight of Southern NM and El Paso, TX., will have another mission to Washington DC April 27th thought April 29th
- Will be participating in the 2023 homeless veterans stand down, first meeting will be in February 2nd at FVW 10124
- American Legion Auxiliary celebrated their 98th anniversary on January 16th
- Run for the wall coming up in Spring

**Christine Sautter,**
*MOAA*
- had their installation of officers in January and Ms. Sautter was selected president
- Will have a table and representatives at the baton Death March registration

**Daniel Ansbach,**
*Special Forces Association*
- nothing to report for this month

**Sam Bothern,**
*DAV Chapter 10*
- nothing to report this month

**Hubert Gay,**
*VVA, Vietnam Veterans of America*
- New Afghanistan, Iraq monument was installed December 22 at the park and will schedule a dedication on May 20th, which is Armed Forces Day
Rod Gajewski,
Military Order of Purple Heart (MOPH)
- Park cleanup for February will be American legion post 6917
- Bataan Death March for this year information is online

James Turner,
Member at Large 1
- Garrison Flag will ceremony for Vietnam Veteran Welcome Home on March 25th

Hector Sanchez
Member at large 2-Student
- VA will be implementing a new system in March hoping this will be a better system to help veteran students
- Staff will be attending the New York City the Department of Defense’s Tuition Assistance symposium this year

Karen Woods,
United Military Women of the Southwest (UMWSW)
- 5th Annual Women Veterans Monument ceremony will be March 18th at 10:00am at Veteran’s Park
- June 17th hoping to have a youth boxing tournament at the Fraternal Order of Eagles, details are still being worked out

Larry Nichols – updates
- will be the staff liaison for the Veteran’s Advisory Board
- No changes for meetings location
- Military Affairs Committee for the Chamber of Commerce would like to liaise and coordinate with VAB for the Baton Death March
- Any recognitions please contact Mr. Nichols
- Five volunteers from Historical Preservation Committee will give presentations of the significance and the importance of the memorial memorials at Veterans Memorial Park. Will follow-up with more details.
- Larry Nichols will volunteer to give a welcoming address for the Vietnam Run to the Wall

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<tr>
<th>7. Old Business</th>
<th>11:13</th>
<th>Updates on Veterans Memorial Parking Lot – Larry Nichols</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>- 90% complete with design</td>
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<td>- Construction might start scheduled of March 2023</td>
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<td>- Will give more updates to come</td>
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<th>8. Public Participation</th>
<th>11:43</th>
<th>Adrian Gonzalez</th>
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<td>- Would like to have a bench with name of daughter put in Veterans Memorial Park as a memorial.</td>
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<td>Mr. Gay reminded Mr. Gonzalez that request for memorial was denied from last meeting.</td>
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<td>Mr. Gajewski reminded Mr. Gonzalez from last meeting in November</td>
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Read into record
they recommended to talk to the city and to find other locations for the honor of daughter. Veterans Advisory Board unanimous voted to deny a request for a non-veteran memorial in the Veterans Memorial Park.

**Dale Lawrence,**
Vet Center
- Will be a briefing on the PACT ACT on February 25th at the Convention Center here in Las Cruces from 9:00am to 1:00pm

**Beverly Drum,**
First Junior Vice Commander of Chapter 10
- Suggested to put a sign in memory of Mr. Gonzalez daughter

**Jeffrey Lee,**
- Would like to be part of the VAB board and will like more information

| | | March 28 – Next Meeting

| 10. Adjournment | 11:48 | **Karen Woods,** requested motion to adjourn  
| | | VAB unanimously approved by voice vote