



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 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.

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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

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

<p>5. Elections of Officers</p>	<p>10:11</p>	<p>Larry Nichols, <i>Community Development Director</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. 	<p>Vote taken by Ballot</p>
<p>6. Board Member Reports</p>	<p>10:31</p>	<p>Victor Eres, <i>Marine Corps League</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 <p>John Poland, <i>America Legion Post 10</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 through 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 <p>Christine Sautter, <i>MOAA</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 <p>Daniel Ansbach, <i>Special Forces Association</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - nothing to report for this month <p>Sam Bothern, <i>DAV Chapter 10</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - nothing to report this month <p>Hubert Gay, <i>VVA, Vietnam Veterans of America</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New Afghanistan, Iraq monument was installed December 22 at the park and will schedule a dedication on May 20th, which is Armed Forces Day 	

		<p>Rod Gajewski, <i>Military Order of Purple Heart (MOPH)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Park cleanup for February will be American legion post 6917 - Bataan Death March for this year information is online <p>James Turner, <i>Member at Large 1</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Garrison Flag will ceremony for Vietnam Veteran Welcome Home on March 25th <p>Hector Sanchez <i>Member at large 2-Student</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 <p>Karen Woods, <i>United Military Women of the Southwest (UMWSW)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 <p>Larry Nichols – updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 	
<p>7. Old Business</p>	<p>11:13</p>	<p>Updates on Veterans Memorial Parking Lot – Larry Nichols</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 90% complete with design - Construction might start scheduled of March 2023 - Will give more updates to come 	
<p>8. Public Participation</p>	<p>11:43</p>	<p>Adrian Gonzalez</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would like to have a bench with name of daughter put in Veterans Memorial Park as a memorial. <p>Mr. Gay reminded Mr. Gonzalez that request for memorial was denied from last meeting.</p> <p>Mr. Gajewski reminded Mr. Gonzalez from last meeting in November</p>	<p>Read into record</p>

		<p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p>Beverly Drum, First Junior Vice Commander of Chapter 10 - Suggested to put a sign in memory of Mr. Gonzalez daughter</p> <p>Jeffrey Lee, - Would like to be part of the VAB board and will like more information</p>	
9. Reminders	11:48	<p>March 25 – Vietnam Veteran Welcome Home</p> <p>March 28 – Next Meeting</p>	
10. Adjournment	11:48	Karen Woods, requested motion to adjourn	VAB unanimously approved by voice vote