



# City of Las Cruces<sup>®</sup>

## Veterans Advisory Board Agenda

The following Agenda will be considered at a regular meeting of the Veterans Advisory Board to be held March 28, 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:

[VAB MINUTES - FEBRUARY 28 2023.PDF](#)

4. Board Member Reports
  - 4.1 Board Reports
  - 4.2 City Staff comments
5. Public Participation
  - 5.1 Public comment (3 minutes)
6. Old Business
  - 6.1 David Viarreal -Status report- parking lot expansion-Veterans Memorial Park
  - 6.2 After action report on "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans" ceremony
7. New Business
  - 7.1 Update on "Candle Visual 2023"
8. Reminders
  - 8.1 Next VAB meeting – April 25,2023
  - 8.2 Easter Sunday – April 9, 2023

9. 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 February 28, 2023

Date: March 28, 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  
 Patrick Ramirez, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10124 (VFW)  
 Mike Cano, Member at Large Number 3

### Board Members Absent:

Jesse Addison, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3242 (VFW)

### City Staff Present:

Larry Nichols, Community Development Director

<i>AGENDA ITEM</i>	<i>TIME RECORDING</i>	<i>DISCUSSIONS/CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS</i>	<i>ACTION TAKEN</i>
1. Call to Order	09:05	<b>Chair Woods</b> - called the meeting of the Veterans Advisory Board to order.	Board acknowledged Pledge by VAB
2. Approval of Agenda	09:06	Agenda reviewed by VAB-Motion to accept the agenda for February 28, 2023	VAB unanimously approved
3. Approval of Minutes	09:08	Minutes from January 24, 2023, meeting reviewed by VAB, motion to accept the minutes with corrections.	VAB unanimously approved
4. Recognitions	09:08	<b>Veterans Corner – Larry Nichols</b> Veteran’s Corner was placed on the agenda to give an opportunity for either the Chair or a board member to bring up a topic of interest.	

**5. Board  
Member  
Reports**

09:09

**Hector Sanchez**

*Member at Large Number 2-Student*

-Student Veterans Organization will have Spring 2023 picnic in memorization of Bataan Death March at Garcia Center Courtyard from 11a.m. to 1 p.m.

**John Poland**

*American Legion Post 10*

-Repairs are being done at the post due to high wind damage  
-Planning state American Legion annual convention in Las Cruces at end of June hosted by Post 10  
-Sponsoring a Las Cruces High School student in the American Legion oratorical contest  
-Sponsoring an Army Air Missile Detachment in 2023 Bataan Death March

**Daniel Ansbach**

*Special Forces Association*

-Will have a water point at Bataan Death March

**Hubert Gay**

*VVA Vietnam Veterans of America*

-Reminder that the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans will be on March 25

**Sam Bothern**

*DAV Chapter 10*

-Nothing to report this month

**Victor Eres**

*Marine Corps League*

-Had honors at 12 funerals from Jan.29 to Feb.27, no color guards or honor guards  
-New Mexico DVS will be hosting an honor guard competition & training on April 28  
-There is a need for more participation as honor guards. Master Sgt. Andres Rivera may be called for more information at 574-312-3451.

**Rod Gajewski**

*Military Order of Purple Heart (MOPH)*

-Will assist Air force group at final water point of Bataan Death March

**Christine Sauter**

*Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)*

-Nothing to report at this time

**James Turner**

*Member at Large Number 1*

-There is a property tax exemption available. Check with Utilities

		<p><b>Patrick Ramirez</b>  <i>Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10124 (VFW)</i>  -Still have Friday night karaoke, meals not being served.  -Will be cooking on March 25, at the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans starting at 8:00 a.m.</p> <p><b>Mike Cano</b>  <i>Member at Large Number 3</i>  -Nothing to report at this time</p> <p><b>Karen Woods</b>  <i>United Military Women of the Southwest (UMESW)</i>  -March 18, 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Women’s Veterans Monument.  Emphasis this year is on the 77 military nurses captured and rescued.  All are welcome.</p>	
<b>6. Old Business</b>	09:28	<p><b>Larry Nichols</b>  -City Clerk is reviewing status of board members &amp; will ensure everyone has their correct status for serving on the board.  -Spoke with David Burrell of Public Works re Veteran’s Memorial Park parking lot expansion. Estimated timeline: design complete in April, then out for bids, July 2023, begin construction. Discussion of costs, Mr. Nichols will try to bring information next mtg.</p>	
<b>7. New Business</b>	9:31	<p><b>Rudy Reyes</b>  -Discussion of Special Forces Monument enhancement: type, planning, funds schedule. Will need complete package for VAB and Parks &amp; Rec. Mr. Nichols offered to help with the administrative part.</p>	
<b>8. Public Participation</b>	09:35	<p><b>Bruce</b>  -Clarification of what’s needed to obtain permit for March 25<sup>th</sup> Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans event. Franco Granillo will advise his dept. to assist in filing for the permit.  -Mr. Nichols confirmed that parking lot expansion may not be cleared &amp; used while waiting for construction to be complete</p> <p><b>Cody McCarty</b>  -He’s with Congressman Gabe Vazquez’s office. Available if there are issues with federal agencies. Ph # 202-913-5791</p> <p><b>Desiree Gonzalez</b>  -Reminder of PACT Act Claims Clinic on March 9 in Anthony</p> <p><b>Desiree Johnson</b>  -Discussion of providers leaving and efforts to fill current needs.</p>	Read into record

		<p><b>Jacen Bernal</b> -Reminder of March 10<sup>th</sup> job fair. It is a general job fair, veterans included. -Working on a job fair specifically for veterans.</p> <p><b>Heidi Blair</b> -Launching business <b>Transforming Life with Heidi</b>, would like to center business around veterans. She provided background &amp; qualifications.</p> <p><b>Dolores Archuleta</b> <i>Chair of Veterans Memorial Wall</i> -Mayor’s citation for community service for Naomi Vega who sings the national anthem at the Garrison flag raising ceremony will be presented on March 6, 1 p.m. -Discussion of placement of names, qualification to have name on wall. A letter is sent to those not eligible with explanation. -Mention of disrespectful levity while names are read at Vietnam Veterans event</p> <p><b>Franco Granillo</b> <i>Parks and Recreation</i> -Thanked VAB for reporting damage. It was minor wind damage. Parks &amp; Rec. was praised for excellent maintenance of park.</p> <p><b>Beverly Drum</b> <i>First Junior Vice Commander of DV Chap. 10 and Chaplain of the United Ministry</i> -A veteran in AZ unable to participate in the Bataan Memorial March has paid the nonrefundable fee and is offering this position to anyone interested. Call Ron Lautenbach@ 575-639-8228</p> <p><b>Sam Jones</b> -PACT event with 150 veterans and family members in attendance. Director from Albuquerque, Cesar Romero, said they would be setting up a benefits office in Las Cruces.</p> <p><b>Dawn Armstrong</b> <i>Home Based Primary Care Medical Foster Home Team</i> -Introduced Patrick Cahill, a recreation therapist focused on finding ways to keep clients active using activity-based interventions.</p>	
<p><b>9. Reminders</b></p>	<p>10:19</p>	<p>March 25 – Vietnam Veteran Welcome Home</p> <p>March 28 – next VAB meeting</p>	
<p><b>10. Adjournment</b></p>	<p>10:20</p>	<p><b>Karen Woods</b>, requested motion to adjourn</p>	<p>VAB unanimously approved by voice vote</p>