The following Agenda will be considered at a regular meeting of the Veterans Advisory Board to be held May 23, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at City Hall, Council Chambers, Las Cruces, N.M.

1. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum
2. Acceptance of Agenda
3. Veterans Advisory Board Minutes
   Documents:
   04-25-23 VAB MINUTES.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 Veterans Memorial Park- Parking lot expansion update.
7. New Business
   - 7.1 Board Appointments
8. Reminders
   - May 29-Memorial Day (Half-Staff until 1200 hours)-Garrison Flag Ceremony
   - June 14- Flag Day
   - June 18- Father’s Day
   - June 27- Next Meeting
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.

Date posted: 5/19/2023
1 2 3 4 VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD 5 6 April 25, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. 7 8 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: 9 Karen Woods, UMW of Southwest - Chair 10 Rod Gajewski, MOPH 11 John Poland, American Legion #10 12 Victor Eres, USMC 13 Lawrence "Sam" Bothern, DAV #10 14 Patrick Ramirez, VFW 10124 15 Hector Sanchez, Member at Large No. 2-Student 16 James Turner, Member at Large No. 1 17 Michael Cano, Member at Large No. 3 18 19 BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: 20 Jesse Addison, VFW 3242 21 Daniel Ansbach, Special Forces #80 22 Christine Sautter, MOAA 23 24 STAFF PRESENT: 25 Larry Nichols, Director Community Development Department, CLC 26 Becky Baum, Recording Secretary, RC Creations, LLC 27 28 OTHERS: 29 Beverly Drum 30 Palmer LD 31 Travis Rogers 32 Patrick Cahill 33 Andres Rivera 34 Montevis Price 35 36 1. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM 37 Chair Woods called the meeting to order. A quorum was determined to be present. 38 ALL STAND FOR PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. 39 40 2. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA 41 Motion to accept the agenda made by John Poland; seconded by Rod Gajewski. 42 Motion passed. 43 44 3. VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES - March 28, 2023
It was suggested that on the minutes the person who made the motion and the person who seconded should be noted. Staff agreed and will update the minutes.

Motion to accept the minutes made by Patrick Ramirez; seconded by John Poland. Motion passed.

4. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

4.1 BOARD REPORTS

Mike Cano - Member at Large No. 3 - Nothing to report.

Rod Gajewski - Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) - Still about 16 openings for the Candlelight Ceremony held on May 29. Those sponsoring candles will arrive around 7:00 and then align people up and the ceremony will begin at 8:00. Next year Purple Heart will be sponsoring and helping. Mesilla Valley Hospice will probably be taking over the responsibility of the ceremony. They will do that for part of their Level 5 veterans. The contact for that is Lorraine Padilla, CFO at Mesilla Valley Hospice. For May the American Legion, Joe Quesenberry Post 10 is the park clean up. June will be United Women of the Southwest.

John Poland - American Legion Post 10 - The American Legion National Commander will be at Post 10 today after noon. Looking forward to cleaning up Veterans Memorial Park next month. May 19th feeding 300+ riders who are coming through town on the Run for the Wall, they have their own road guards for traffic with concurrence from the police department. The plan for them is to be in place by 0730 at the park. May 13th, American Legion District 7 meeting in Silver City. End of June hosting the State Annual Convention, with a lot of current planning. May 28th, placing flags at veterans grave sites at St. Joseph's Cemetery on Espina staring at 7:30 a.m. Honor Flight of Southern New Mexico and El Paso leaves for Washington, DC this Thursday, meeting at Memorial Medical Center at midnight Wednesday. There are 33 veterans, three from Korean War era, rest are Vietnam Veterans. Another Honor Flight will be at the end of September.

There was a problem with Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans parking on the roadway, with an officer requesting moving the cars off the road. Usually LCPD escorts the riders to the park and then block the westside lane (outside lane). In years past the LCPD has escorted the riders to the park and then escort them out of town also. There is a POC, Art Ambriz, who is coordinating all of the Run for the Wall, and the American Legion is serving breakfast. Things will be double checked for safety as that is paramount, particularly on Roadrunner Parkway. Larry Nichols
volunteered for Veterans Park at 0730, work with LCPD on traffic control, and help with speakers. The City would like to welcome the Run for the Wall group.

**Lawrence (Sam” Bothem - Disabled American Veterans (DAV) #10** - May 27th putting flags on cemetery at Doña Ana, current use cemetery. This will be at 8:00 leaving the old K-Mart on Del Rey. There are about 60 graves.

**Hector Sanchez - Member at Large No. 2-Student** - There is the Cord Ceremony happening in less than two weeks, May 5th, 6:00 p.m. at Corbet Center in the auditorium on the second floor. A program will be sent out. Vice-President Renay Scott will attend, as well as the Provost of the University. This year a total of 41 veterans graduating from NMSU, 16 veterans graduating from DACC. Seven of the NMSU graduates are graduating with high honors. The veterans at NMSU overall have a higher GPA at 3.3, than the general student is 3.1. A lot of companies, some local and some national, call their office as they want to hire veterans, which is encouraging. The companies are contractors that want veterans that particularly have security clearances.

**Victor Eres - Marine Corps League (USMC)** - Five funerals participated in from March 28 to today. Two Color Guards include the competition on April 21st, placed first in the large unit, second pace in the large unit. Did field two units. Placed first in flag folding small team. They do place flags at the Masonic Cemetery, they start early, 0800.

**Patrick Ramirez - Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) 10124** - Having a celebration of life for George L. Norris Friday, April 28th from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Located at 709 S. Valley Drive, across from Caliches, next to the veterinarian. After that there will be the Friday dinner for a nominal charge, and karaoke states at 7:00. May 13th, have a band from 5:00 - 8:00, but have a fish fry starting at 4:00 p.m.

**James Turner - Member at Large No. 1** - Brought some garrison flag schedules. He has been doing the garrison flag custody for over 10 years. Try to get as many people as to come out in the mornings to raise the flag and then in the evening for retreat. Important to spread the word, in addition to them doing it, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, ROTC. The fire department does attend, which is appreciated. Need more people, big flag and talks more than four or five people to fold it. Next function at the Veterans Park in addition to garrison flags there is a dedication of the Afghanistan and Iraq Memorial has been placed just to the left of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Official dedication on May 20th at 8:00 right after the flag raising for Armed Forces Day. Part of the group here for the flag dedication is the mother of Mr. Rodriguez that is on the memorial.
There was a golf tournament last year, and again this year, although fairly expensive, if you are a veteran you play for $25.

Concerning the flag raising, Fire Chief Smith indicated that he wanted another copy, and he indicated he has two fire stations and would do more diligent efforts being sure to have fire personnel, if no emergency calls, at both the raising and lowering of the flag.

Karen Woods - United Military Women of the Southwest - This Friday, April 28th, spaghetti dinner for $5 at the El Caldito Soup Kitchen, take out or eat in. There are tickets being presold. May 5th car show at Organ Mountain High School at 8:00 a.m. registration. There is a $25 fee. They also have a swap meet that charges $20. Going to have a Youth Boxing Tournament. There is an Olympic hopeful and one going to Golden Gloves up in Philadelphia. And one that just recently joined the Army and she is only doing boxing. This teaches discipline. (A flyer was passed out for the event.) This event is a bit costly at $4,000 - $6,000. All the money goes to the boxing association. The United Boxing Federation pays for the boxer but not the chaperone. This will be boxing within the state and outside the states. Some young men will also be fighting.

4.2 CITY STAFF COMMENTS

Larry Nichols stated there will be additional vacancies coming up for the board. Two of the terms are expiring after serving eight years or more and ineligible for reappointment, this would be Rod Gajewski and Patrick Ramirez. Rod Gajewski stated that Jason Ferguson has already submitted his paperwork to take his position in July, which should be checked on. James Turner stated he is a Member at Large, but also a member of 10124, and wondered if he could transition into Patrick Ramirez's position, leaving the Member at Large open for anybody interested. He also questioned whether the tenure still role at the time or will it start from scratch. Larry Nichols will pass all information to the Mayor to bring it up in City Council meeting. Also mentioned that Hubert Gay resigned and Fred Madrid was mentioned for that position. Larry Nichols stated Fred Madrid turned in to the City some of his background documents and announced that the Veterans Advisory Board had selected him to be the replacement for Hubert Gay. All paperwork will be forward to the City Clerk and the Mayor. Jesse Addison was mentioned as having missed some meetings.

Lester Palmer stated he may have between three to five years left from his previous board attendance as Member at Large No. 2. Offered to attend again for quorum purposes.
Larry Nichols stated there was a request from the Gonzales family for a memorial in Veterans Memorial Park. This Board heard the request and made a recommendation to City Council. It is going before City Council May 15th. at 1:00 p.m. The agenda will be posted seven to 10 days before the meeting, the agenda includes title, background, and attachments. The resolution requires the requester of the memorial or a monument to submit a description of what they are requesting in writing. That request was not received in writing, only verbal.

John Poland stated his terms expires in July but he wants to continue and what is the process. Pass basic information to Larry Nichols with the statement of desire to continue the appointment to the Board. Those eligible for reappointment in July 2023 are John Poland and James Turner.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Montevis Price of Veterans Justice Outreach Program. No updates. There are four participants currently, and trying to get more. Five are pending approval from the DA office. There were two that graduated last month and his office does follow up. There is currently one female and one that is signing paperwork today.

Beverly Drum has information about PGA HOPE (Helping Our Patriots Everywhere). This is where disabled veterans learn to play golf. Per Dan Hon, the May 11 class is full but there are still openings for September 2, which has five signed up. The point of contact is Jason White at NMSU Golf Course (575) 646-3219. It was mentioned that PGA HOPE is for any veterans, not just disabled, and advise was to contact Jason White.

Andres Rivera of Marine Corps League. He is with the Marine Corps Honor Guard and they have an annual competition in Albuquerque. This is an Honor Guard Burial Conference which is a class by the different branches of service on how to conduct a funeral, folding the flag, playing Taps, three volleys for rifle file. The teams compete against each other. He hoped to have eight or nine teams in Las Cruces. When the competition was here in Las Cruces last year, only one team from Las Cruces participated. He has had to say no family, cannot do military honors due to same day same time, and only one team. He is asking to fill another team, as one is not enough. You do have to go through the training for the certification. There is also a $500 stipend for a uniform. Chair Woods asked if someone is interested in serving honors, why do they need to be certified. The certification and class are to do it properly. The trainings can be acquired anytime.

Patrick Cahill of Home Based Primary Care Team with the VA. Nothing to report.

6. OLD BUSINESS
6.1 VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK - PARKING LOT EXPANSION UPDATE

Larry Nichols stated there was a presentation last month by David Viarreal from Public Works. This project is still on schedule. Design is to be completed by end of May. Out to bid in June. After selection of contractor, the construction will begin shortly thereafter hopefully. Construction would continue through the end of the year. Objective to have the parking lot expansion completed by January 2024.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
7.2 JEREMY CHINO (CEPC)

8. REMINDERS

8.1 NEXT VAB MEETING - MAY 23, 2023
8.2 MOTHER’S DAY - GARRISON FLAG CEREMONY - MAY 14, 2023
8.3 ARMED FORCES DAY - GARRISON FLAG CEREMONY - MAY 20, 2023
8.4 MEMORIAL DAY (HALF-STAFF UNTIL 1200 HOURS) - GARRISON FLAG CEREMONY

Michael Cano will be unable to attend next month’s meeting.

John Poland and Larry Nichols asked to be excused to attend other functions.

9. ADJOURNMENT (10:01)

Motion to adjourn made by Lawrence (Sam) Bothern; seconded by Patrick Ramirez. Motion passed.

Chairperson