The following Agenda will be considered at a regular meeting of the Veterans Advisory Board to be held June 27, 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:
   05-23-23 VAB MINUTES.PDF
4. Recognitions
   - 4.1 Veterans Corner-Chair
5. Board Member Reports
   - 5.1 Board Reports
   - 5.2 City Staff comments
6. Public Participation
   - 6.1 Public comment (3 minutes)
7. Old Business
   - 7.1 Veterans Memorial Park- Parking lot expansion update.
   - 7.2 Veterans' Memorial Park- City Council decision on memorial.
8. New Business
   - 8.1 July 4th Parade route
The following Agenda will be considered at a regular meeting of the Veterans Advisory Board to be held June 27, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at City Hall, Council Chambers, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

9. Reminders
   - July 4th - Independence Day
   - July 27 - Korean War Veterans Armistice Day
   - July 27 - Next VAB Meeting

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/TY.

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.
1. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Chair Woods called the meeting to order.

ALL STAND FOR PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Chair Woods asked all to remain standing and read. "For Vietnam of America, Chapter 431: On Saturday May 13, 2023, at 7:00 a.m., I Vice President Fredrick Madrid, received a call from our Chapter Chaplain Larry Orvis. He advised that Lt. Colonel Elsa J. Baker had passed away. Lt Colonel Baker was born in April 1944. She was retired Air Force. Lt. Colonel Baker was our Chapter's Treasurer and Secretary. She was 79 when she passed away."
Chair Woods stated that Lt. Colonel Baker and her husband Walt are very active within the community itself. Her bio is online. She was instrumental with getting the Veterans Park done.

A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR LT. COLONEL ELSA J. BAKER.

A quorum was determined to be present.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Motion to accept the agenda was made by Victor Eres; seconded by John Poland. Motion passed.

3. VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES - March 28, 2023

Motion to accept the minutes was made by Rod Gajewski; seconded by John Poland. Motion passed.

4. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

4.1 BOARD REPORTS

Victor Eres - Marine Corps League (USMC) - As of the last meeting in April the Honor Guard provided funeral honors for eight veterans. Also provided two Color Guards, one for the Run for the Wall when they were in town, and following day at the ceremony at Veterans Park. For Memorial Day they have Candlelight Vigil on May 29th. They will be placing flags at Masonic Cemetery on May 28th, 0800.

John Poland - American Legion Post 10 - They had the privilege of having the American Legion National Commander attend the post on April 25th. He spoke about suicide prevention which is one of his main goal is getting the word out about suicide prevention which is a national emergency. Approximately 22 veterans per day are lost to suicide. His motto is "Be the One," and encourages everybody to look for the signs of suicide and getting them the help, they need. Picking up litter at the Veterans Memorial Park each Monday. May is American Legion Month and they consider it a privilege doing that. May 19th, they fed about 275 riders in the Run for the Wall, heading to Washington, DC from Ontario, California. Thanked Chair Woods for coming out at 3:00 a.m. to help cook the breakfast for the 275 riders. American Legion District 7 meeting in Silver City on May 13th. At that meeting Post 10 was privileged to present the department with a check for $1,000 for the Children and Youth Program that the American Legion sponsors. Post 10 will be sponsoring the American Legion State Convention here in Las Cruces at the end of June. There was an Honor Flight at the end of April with 33 plus guardians to Washington, DC. Next
Honor Flight leaves on September 28th. On May 28th placing flags on the veterans’ gravesites at St. Joseph's Cemetery on Espina.

**Lawrence "Sam" Bothern - Disabled American Veterans (DAV) #10** - Fundraiser currently going on through Memorial Day at Golden Corral. Flags at the Doña Ana Cemetery on morning of May 27th, 0800, for about 60 flags. The Commander and Mr. Bothern will be going to the state convention in Albuquerque mid-June.

**Rod Gajewski - Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)** - In June United Military Women of the Southwest have the park clean up. May 29th starting with sponsors arriving at 7:00, have the Candlelight Ceremony, and they would appreciate any people to stand by for people who no-show. The ceremony will start at 8:00, May 29th.

**Christine Sautter - Military Officers Association of America** - Completed all awards to the local high schools JRTC programs, and NMSU JROTC Army and Air Force program. Also lost another member, Bob Whitworth, Vietnam Vet, prolific writer about his time in Vietnam.

**Patrick Ramirez - Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) 10124** - Usual Friday night karaoke with meal of cheeseburger and fries for nominal fee. Last Sunday of the month have post breakfast at 11:00 a.m. for donation if possible. Haircuts from 12:00-3:00 p.m. May 29th, Ceremony at the River at 8:00 a.m.

### 4.2 CITY STAFF COMMENTS

Larry Nichols stated he was honored to address the Run for the Wall participants last Friday. Many of the riders mentioned Las Cruces Veterans Memorial Park is the premiere stop on their ride from California to Washington, DC. It is a well-maintained park. He will attend the Candlelight Ceremony Memorial Day. June 5th City Council meeting agenda will include Gonzales request. Chair Woods asked if any of the City Council attended the Run for the Wall Ceremony, and Larry Nichols attended on the Council’s behalf. Disappointing that no City Councilor attended.

Rod Gajewski mentioned there was flag raising a week ago for Peace Officers Association; only two peace officers attended who were two marshals, no City representatives attended.

### 5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Montevis Price stated they have their anniversary ceremony this afternoon at 4:00 at the courthouse, Court Room #1. There is one graduate who will be
speaking about how she entered and arrived at healthy living. Chair Wood
introduced Heidi Blair to Montevis Price.

Heidi Blair started her business, Transforming Life with Heidi. May 24th at 1:00
she has a transforming life information session discussing three different laws of
growth. Chair Woods stated there is pro golf happening for veterans and asked
what Heidi thought of the program. Heidi Blair stated P.J. Hope is the golf
program that is offering instruction to any veterans that would like to attend. It is
a six-week program to be at University Golf Course. This session is already full.
Another session will be in September, with another six-week session and there
were about three slots still open. The program starts with basics of how to hold
the golf club, etc.

6. OLD BUSINESS

6.1 VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK - PARKING LOT EXPANSION UPDATE

Larry Nichols stated he spoke to David Viarreal of Public Works and asked
the status of the parking lot expansion. The plans are now complete. They
will be going solicitation of bids early June. Once received and reviewed by
the Selection Advisory Board with the intent of awarding bid and issuing
notification notices to proceed, probably about mid to late July.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Dawn Smith (915) 227-1253, program support assistant for Home Based Primary
Care (HBPC), Medical foster home. They have partnered with Casa de Peregrinos
and are delivering food to veterans in need. They will be participating in the 4th of
July parade. They are searing for other ideas with veterans’ groups to collaborate
with.

Chair Woods asked about the theme for the 4th of July parade. Larry Nichols will
acquire that information. Dawn Smith stated it is posted on the City of Las Cruces
website, and applications are at Frank Papen Community Center and due by June
26th by 5:00 p.m.

Rod Gajewski asked how HBPC are doing with home veteran sponsors. Dawn
Smith stated NMSU has a huge proponent for veterans, military veterans, school
academics. There is a huge event downtown for every type of military organization
and they will set up a booth and then able to recruit homes to be a part of the
program. Home Based Medical Care and then Medical Foster Home is under that.
If a veteran is not able to get to CBOC (Community Based Outpatient Clinic) or the
main VA, ours is in El Paso, then HBPC will help support that veteran. Should the
veteran be unable to remain home alone, they will locate a medical foster home.
Currently in Las Cruces there are three medical foster homes, and El Paso has 23.
They do work with DAV for transportation, and Vets Center. They are also getting
donations for bus ride tickets for veterans. Rod Gajewski needs specifics for travel
donations and then Purple Heart would contribute. Dawn stated they do things
throughout Las Cruces and El Paso, and recently attended a two-day summit in El
Paso. The summit included presentations for veterans and the services that were
offered.

Rod Gajewski asked if Peak Medical was decertified, no longer part of the VA.
Montevis Price stated that Peak is not a part of the VA, but since there are no
residential programs or detox facilities, they use Peak for those treatment.

**SERVICE DOG PROGRAM**

Andrea Joseph with Four Paws and a Wake Up. Aly Delao the trainer with a dog
to present.

Demonstration of the service dogs’ abilities was presented. This included picking
up various objects of size, shape, form, also laser pickup if the item is more of an
unknown to the dog, standing watch such as an ATM. Also includes triggering on
PTSD symptoms to help.

Andrea Joseph states they have a 4,000 square foot training facility here in Las
Cruces. All dogs are trained on a treadmill for exercise, as some veterans are
unable to truly get the dog full exercise due to their own mobility issues. Teach
dogs to wake up people from night terror. They do need veterans to sign up for
dogs. The pairing of dog and veteran, look at dog’s strengths and the veterans'
needs. They will come and do presentations. They do have a dog that has been
trained, but unfortunately, she is very dog-obsessed so focus on dog and not her
service, therefore not able to be a service dog. There are no fees or charges to
the veteran. Only have fees if dog is repurposed as a pet, general public request
a nominal adoption fee. They are starting an owner assisted program to see if
someone’s dog can become a service dog, and this program will necessitate a fee.
Training a dog takes 12-24 months. Website - k94paws.org.

**7.1 BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

Chair Woods stated there are a couple underway. Wayne will be putting in an
application. Also get 6917 back onto the Board. Mr. Pullen has filled out his
application. Mr. Madrid has done paperwork.

Larry Nichols stated there are three, possibly four, appointments that need to be
presented to the Mayor to bring them before City Council.

**8. REMINDERS**

**8.1 MAY 29 - MEMORIAL DAY (HALF-STAFF UNTIL 1200 HOURS) -
GARRISON FLAG**
8.2 JUNE 14 - FLAG DAY
8.3 JUNE 18 - FATHER’S DAY
8.4 JUNE 27 - NEXT MEETING

9. ADJOURNMENT (10:06)

Motion to adjourn made by Christine Sauter; seconded by Rod Gajewski. Motion passed.

Chairperson