The following Agenda will be considered at a regular meeting of the Veterans Advisory Board to be held September 26, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at City Hall, Council Chambers, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

1. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Acceptance of Agenda
4. Veterans Advisory Board Minutes
   Documents:
   08-29-23 VAB MINUTES.PDF
5. Recognitions
   • 5.1 Veterans Corner-Chair
6. Board Member Reports
   • 6.1 Board Reports
   • 6.2 City Staff comments
7. Public Participation
   • 7.1 Public comment (3 minutes)
8. Old Business
   • 8.1 Comments on Veterans Day Parade.
9. New Business
   • 9.1 Discussion on board representation (VFW 6917).
10. Reminders
    • October 2 • Firefighters Memorial Day (Half-Staff)
    • October 9 • Columbus Day
Veterans Advisory Board Agenda

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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.
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:
Karen Woods, UMW of Southwest - Chair
Jason Ferguson, MOPH
Victor Eres, USMC
Lawrence "Sam" Bothern, DAV #10
John Poland, American Legion #10
James Turner, VFW 10124 (departed 10:00)
Frederick Madrid, Vietnam Veterans of America

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:
Daniel Ansbach, Special Forces #80
Christine Sautter, MOAA
Jesse Addison, VFW 3242
Hector Sanchez, Member at Large No. 2

STAFF PRESENT:
Larry Nichols, Director Community Development Department, CLC
Becky Baum, Recording Secretary, RC Creations, LLC

OTHERS:
LD Palmer
Dawn Armstrong
Alaina Johnson
Jason Bernal
Dale Laurence

1. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Chair Woods called the meeting to order. A quorum was determined to be present.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ALL STAND FOR PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Motion to accept the agenda was made by Sam Bothern; seconded by John Poland. Motion passed.
4. VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES - July 25, 2023

Motion to accept the amended minutes, correcting page 4, line 26 last name
"March" to "Laurence," made by John Poland; seconded by Sam Bothern. Motion
passed.

Chair Woods mentioned there were two new members, Fredrick Madrid for
Vietnam Veterans of America, and Jason Ferguson for Military Order of the Purple
Heart.

5. RECOGNITION

5.1 Veterans Corner-Chair

6. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

6.1 BOARD REPORTS

John Poland - American Legion Post 10 - A Draping of Charter ceremony
was conducted honoring Earl Stevens, David Portillo, Terry Tometich. There is an ongoing initiative to get more members trained as Veteran
Services Officers. Future goal is to have enough VSOs to have established
hours for any veteran to come to the post for help. Last Friday they had the
monthly social with a guest speaker, Miguel Martinez with the New Mexico
Department of Veterans Services who provided a wealth of information.
Third Friday In September POW/MIA Remembrance Day established by
Congress in 1979 and will also be their monthly social. They are requested
Garrison Flag on that third Friday of September.

Motion for accepting the Garrison Flag for the third Friday of September
from this year and following years, made by John Poland and seconded by
Sam Bothern. Motion passed.

Honor Flight Mission 16 taking 33 veterans to Washington, D.C. September
28-30 to see the monuments built in their honor. To see them off, September 28th getting on a bus at Memorial Medical Center at 3:00 a.m.
The United Military Women of the Southwest will be hosting a pancake
breakfast on September 8th, 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at American Legion
Post 10 with proceeds going to the Honor Flight.

Victor Eres - Marine Corps League (USMC) - Fairly busy over the last 34
days. Funeral honors for 18 fallen veterans. There were no color guards
but the detachment did compete in Albuquerque this past Friday on the
Honor Guard Competition and Conference. Detachment won First place in
small detail which consists of flag folding and Taps, also First place in large
team which is entire funeral honor service for veterans.
Lawrence "Sam" Bothern - Disabled American Veterans (DAV) #10 -
Nothing to report

Fredrick Madrid - Vietnam Veterans of America - They had two food
drives; one at Save Mart on August 6, 2023 from 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.,
and at Rinconada Walmart on August 20, 2023 from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Jason Ferguson - Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) - They are
planning for the booth at New Mexico State Fair and is one of the biggest
fund raising events which enables support of various veteran initiatives in
the community.

James Turner - Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) 10124 - The parade
committee has been meeting the last couple of months. The parade is
scheduled for Saturday, November 11th. An e-mail was sent from Bill
Hawkins to those who have participated in past years if they wanted to
participate or not. They have almost half of the entries are ready. They will
meet a few more times prior to November. The theme is "Celebrating
Persian Gulf and Desert Storm Veterans."

Karen Woods - UMW of Southwest - They are sponsoring and
encouraging everybody to attend the Honor Flight. They are also having a
veteran health and welfare which will be at the American Legion, a flyer is
available, On October 16th. The standdown is going to be on October 20th
off of Valley. The main objective is to get to the veterans in rural areas to
help them. The Empty Bowls is upcoming, which is a big event for the Soup
Kitchen.

6.2 CITY STAFF COMMENTS

Larry Nichols stated he had two issues, although one would be addressed
in Old Business. He presented a certificate of recognition to John Poland
for service to the Veterans Advisory Board.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

7.1 PUBLIC COMMENT (THREE MINUTES)

7.2 ALAINA JOHNSON - COMFORT KEEPERS

Alaina Johnson stated they are a provider of veterans services, along with
other services for elders in the community. If someone is an elder primarily,
is registered with the VA and need homemaker services, which is to keep
someone at home, just request a prescription through their physician for
homemaker services. This can be up to 58 hours per week for someone to
provide activities of daily living assistance; dressing, bathing, and also respite which is support for spouse, child in the home. This helps keep someone at their home rather than a facility. She distributed business cards to the entire Board.

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1 VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK PARKING LOT EXPANSION - REQUEST FOR BID TIMELINE

Larry Nichols stated the request for a bid based on the specifications and completed plans was August 21, 2023. Publishing date for the bid was August 25, 2023. The duration of the advertisement for the bid will be two weeks. A pre-bid meeting will be August 29-31. There is a question period for the bidders and are due by September 5th. A bid opening will be September 12th. The bid opening is when a contractor would be selected to begin to mobilize and work on the Veterans Memorial Park parking expansion. This information is from the Public Works Department.

A question about support of one of the walls of the memorial, and when is that being addressed. That issue along with the utility lines, arroyo, new restrooms, landscaping, parking lot curbing, and remembrance garden.

Once the bid is awarded, then contractor scheduling will be assessed. Generally these projects move fairly quickly. A question if the Veterans Park would be shut down during the parking lot construction project. No, the park would not close, but the construction area would be fenced off, and some current parking would be used.

JD TURNER HAD TO DEPART AT 10:00 - AS THERE IS NO QUORUM, MEETING CONTINUED AS WORK SESSION.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 COMMENTS ON VETERANS DAY PARADE

See above under Board Reports, JD Turner. Contact Bill Hawkins at (575) 621-7002 if interested in more information on the parade.

9.2 UPDATE ON THE VETERANS BOARD ROSTER

This is still a work in progress. It would be great to get every position filled with a qualified individual.
Chair Woods has been looking at properties for sale. She would like to look at some of them. There are some that are in need of repair and there are a lot of talented people around.

PUBLIC COMMENT (THREE MINUTES)

Dawn Armstrong of Home Based Primary Care/Medical Foster Home. She brought their newest addition, social worker, Jose Romero. Jose Romero introduced himself. Dawn stated they will be participating in the event on October 16th for United Military Women of the Southwest. Also participating in the Stand Down in Las Cruces on October 20th. Sam Bothern stated the Stand Down committee meets the second Wednesday at 11:00 at the VFW 10124. The El Paso VA is having a Stand Down on September 15th.

Dale Laurence stated today until 1:00 in Mesilla Community Center, having a Pact Act briefing workshop. Also on September 5th, at Mimbres Valley Learning Center in Deming from 3:00-7:00 p.m.

Jason Bernal, local veteran employment representative for the Workforce Connection office in Las Cruces. They are doing a veterans themed career fair, currently postponed to March/April due to time constraints. They do have a job fair open to the public on September 27th, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Las Cruces Convention Center, from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. it will be specific for veterans only.

Lester Dale Palmer his is concerned about lack of quorum for this Board, and he feels he should be back on the board, if just temporarily. And board members should not be just any veteran off the street. It was suggested he go online and fill another application to be on the board.

9. REMINDERS

SEPTEMBER 4 - LABOR DAY
SEPTEMBER 11 - PATRIOT DAY (HALF-STAFF)
SEPTEMBER 17 - CONSTITUTION/CITIZENSHIP DAY
SEPTEMBER 29 - NEXT MEETING

9. ADJOURNMENT (10:20)

Meeting adjourned at 10:20.

Chairperson