

## 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

<i>AGENDA ITEM</i>	<i>TIME RECORDING</i>	<i>DISCUSSIONS/CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS</i>	<i>ACTION TAKEN</i>
1. Call to Order	10:05	<b>Chair Woods</b> - 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	<b>Larry Nichols</b> – announced that agendas will now have an item known as “Veterans Corner” regarding topics for the good of the order.	

<p><b>5. Elections of Officers</b></p>	<p>10:11</p>	<p><b>Larry Nichols,</b> <i>Community Development Director</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Election for the Veterans Advisory Board Chair is Karen Woods.</li> <li>- Christine Sautter is the newly elected vice chair for the Veterans Advisory Board.</li> <li>- Mike Cano was elected to be the Secretary for the Veterans Advisory Board.</li> </ul>	<p>Vote taken by Ballot</p>
<p><b>6. Board Member Reports</b></p>	<p>10:31</p>	<p><b>Victor Eres,</b> <i>Marine Corps League</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Month of December they had 9 funerals, one color guard for Martin Luther King</li> <li>- Toys for Tots program distributed toy to over 5,500 children last year</li> <li>- December, they elected a new Commandant, Marine Joe Mendiola</li> </ul> <p><b>John Poland,</b> <i>America Legion Post 10</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Planning for the State's Annual American Legion convention here in Las Cruces</li> <li>- Board of directors for Honor Flight of Southern NM and El Paso, TX., will have another mission to Washington DC April 27<sup>th</sup> through April 29<sup>th</sup></li> <li>- Will be participating in the 2023 homeless veterans stand down, first meeting will be in February 2<sup>nd</sup> at FVW 10124</li> <li>- American Legion Auxiliary celebrated their 98<sup>th</sup> anniversary on January 16<sup>th</sup></li> <li>- Run for the wall coming up in Spring</li> </ul> <p><b>Christine Sautter,</b> <i>MOAA</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- had their installation of officers in January and Ms. Sautter was selected president</li> <li>- Will have a table and representatives at the baton Death March registration</li> </ul> <p><b>Daniel Ansbach,</b> <i>Special Forces Association</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- nothing to report for this month</li> </ul> <p><b>Sam Bothern,</b> <i>DAV Chapter 10</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- nothing to report this month</li> </ul> <p><b>Hubert Gay,</b> <i>VVA, Vietnam Veterans of America</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New Afghanistan, Iraq monument was installed December 22 at the park and will schedule a dedication on May 20<sup>th</sup>, which is Armed Forces Day</li> </ul>	

		<p><b>Rod Gajewski,</b> <i>Military Order of Purple Heart (MOPH)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Park cleanup for February will be American legion post 6917</li> <li>- Bataan Death March for this year information is online</li> </ul> <p><b>James Turner,</b> <i>Member at Large 1</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Garrison Flag will ceremony for Vietnam Veteran Welcome Home on March 25<sup>th</sup></li> </ul> <p><b>Hector Sanchez</b> <i>Member at large 2-Student</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- VA will be implementing a new system in March hoping this will be a better system to help veteran students</li> <li>- Staff will be attending the New York City the Department of Defense’s Tuition Assistance symposium this year</li> </ul> <p><b>Karen Woods,</b> <i>United Military Women of the Southwest (UMWSW)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Women Veterans Monument ceremony will be March 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am at Veteran’s Park</li> <li>- June 17<sup>th</sup> hoping to have a youth boxing tournament at the Fraternal Order of Eagles, details are still being worked out</li> </ul> <p><b>Larry Nichols – updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- will be the staff liaison for the Veteran’s Advisory Board</li> <li>- No changes for meetings location</li> <li>- Military Affairs Committee for the Chamber of Commerce would like to liaise and coordinate with VAB for the Baton Death March</li> <li>- Any recognitions please contact Mr. Nichols</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- Larry Nichols will volunteer to give a welcoming address for the Vietnam Run to the Wall</li> </ul>	
<p><b>7. Old Business</b></p>	<p>11:13</p>	<p><b>Updates on Veterans Memorial Parking Lot – Larry Nichols</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 90% complete with design</li> <li>- Construction might start scheduled of March 2023</li> <li>- Will give more updates to come</li> </ul>	
<p><b>8. Public Participation</b></p>	<p>11:43</p>	<p><b>Adrian Gonzalez</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would like to have a bench with name of daughter put in Veterans Memorial Park as a memorial.</li> </ul> <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><b>Dale Lawrence,</b> Vet Center - Will be a briefing on the PACT ACT on February 25<sup>th</sup> at the Convention Center here in Las Cruces from 9:00am to 1:00pm</p> <p><b>Beverly Drum,</b> First Junior Vice Commander of Chapter 10 - Suggested to put a sign in memory of Mr. Gonzalez daughter</p> <p><b>Jeffrey Lee,</b> - Would like to be part of the VAB board and will like more information</p>	
<b>9. Reminders</b>	11:48	<p>March 25 – Vietnam Veteran Welcome Home</p> <p>March 28 – Next Meeting</p>	
<b>10. Adjournment</b>	11:48	<b>Karen Woods,</b> requested motion to adjourn	VAB unanimously approved by voice vote