



# Agenda

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## VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

**Wednesday, December 9, 2015**

**Market Station**

**Conference Room**

**500 Market Station**

**3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.**

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes: November 4, 2015
4. New Business:
  - a. Action Item:
    - Veterans Webpage discussion
    - Discussion regarding potential organization to administer portion of Veterans Funds
    - Veterans Fitness Passes
    - Approval 2016 Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Calendar
5. Old Business:
  - a. N/A
6. Comments from the Chair and Commissioners
7. Report from Staff
8. Public Comment
9. Adjournment

Interpreter for the hearing impaired available through the City Clerk's Office upon five days notice.

**SUMMARY OF ACTION  
VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
Wednesday, December 9, 2015  
Market Station Conference Room, Santa Fe New Mexico**

<b><u>ITEM</u></b>	<b><u>ACTION</u></b>	<b><u>PAGE</u></b>
<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>ROLL CALL</b>	<b>QUORUM</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES November 4, 2015</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>	<b>2</b>
<b><u>NEW BUSINESS</u></b>		
<b>VETERANS WEBPAGE DISCUSSION</b>	<b>INFORMATION/DISCUSSION</b>	<b>2-7</b>
<b>DISCUSSION REGARDING POTENTIAL ORGANIZATION TO ADMINISTER PORTION OF VETERANS FUNDS</b>	<b>INFORMATION/DISCUSSION</b>	<b>7-9</b>
<b>VETERANS FITNESS PASSES</b>	<b>INFORMATION/DISCUSSION</b>	<b>9-11</b>
<b>APPROVAL 2016 VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING CALENDAR</b>	<b>AMENDED/APPROVED</b>	<b>11-12</b>
<b><u>OLD BUSINESS</u></b>		
<b>COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND BOARD MEMBERS</b>	<b>INFORMATION/DISCUSSION</b>	<b>12-13</b>
<b>REPORT FROM STAFF</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>	<b>ADJOURNED</b>	<b>13</b>

**VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
MARKET STATION CONFERENCE ROOM  
500 MARKET STATION, SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO  
Wednesday, December 9, 2015, 3:00 pm**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Chris Calvert, on Wednesday, December 9, 2015, at the Market Station Conference Room, 500 Market Station, Santa Fe, New Mexico, at approximately 3:00 pm.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chris Calvert, Chair  
Greg Scargall, Vice Chair  
Sigrid Hannah Mabel  
Carmen M. Rodriguez  
Kenneth Dettelbach  
Chris Abeyta  
Henry B. F. Hughes  
(Vacancy)

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

James McCormick

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Phillip Hernandez, New Mexico Workforce Connection  
Rick Carver, Committee Chairman, USS Santa Fe  
Dorothy Seaton, New Mexico Women's Veterans Group  
Chris Sanchez, Youth and Families Services Director, City of Santa Fe  
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION** A motion was made by Ms. Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Abeyta, to approve the agenda as presented.

**VOTE** The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Chair Calvert said the draft being passed around is just a place holder.

Mr. Scargall said we want a video of the Mayor talking with people and thanking Veterans. We need a personal connection. We want it to be very visual and interactive. Staff is on board with that piece. We also want to include a video message from each Councilor. We want them to tell a story and make people feel that this community cares about their service. We also will include an events calendar and will have a submit button where people can add their event. The event has to be vetted but can be added. We also want a feedback button for ideas and concerns.

Chair Calvert said right now we want all local resources for Veterans to be included and need to identify all of those. We bring to the table resources other than government.

Mr. Scargall said yes, we want to include a resource guide. We will highlight the Purple Heart City designation and identify the pins and where to get them. We are open to ideas on this as well and on a Veterans Advisory Board page that includes our head shots and bios. We can put a link to the Resolution, a meeting schedule, our term of appointment and the scope of our work.

Chair Calvert said we might also have a heading called frequently asked questions. Like how do they get a copy of their DD214. Or how do they donate or replenish the fund. We can have information on this page on those kinds of things.

Mr. Abeyta said any time you are going to open up something the door to it has to be big enough and simple enough. We need to use short simple titles.

Mr. Scargall said it will be simple. The City's main page will have a tab for the Veterans Section and in several other places as well.

Mr. Abeyta said no acronyms please. The person looking for help is not going to be into that. It could be a barrier. We need to provide definitions as well. For the videos please don't make it something that makes it look like they are not speaking from the heart.

Chair Calvert said we don't want a campaign speech.

Mr. Abeyta said or something that feels uncomfortable. It needs to be down to earth and real.

Ms. Rodriguez said it should be a living document.

Chair Calvert said yes it will be. Things change. Hopefully it will continue to be improved. You only get one chance to make a first impression. It needs to be good and solid. Make sure that when we put it out there it is good and solid.

Mr. Scargall said the chat would be through a Facebook presence. Should we have it categorized like combat Veterans, women Veterans and others.

Chair Calvert said he thought more categories like health, employment and some like that. Something specific that applies to one category maybe could be separated out but otherwise all services for all Veterans.

Mr. Sanchez said we don't want to duplicate, so an inventory of what exists and links to that will be important.

Mr. Dettelbach asked how many people have you helped register for a disability.

Mr. Scargall said tons.

Mr. Dettelbach asked how many could do that themselves. A lot of people have a disability technically. We need to build a simple website and make it very easy to do.

Chair Calvert said we will be asking everyone here for local resources that are available. The Board may know of resources that maybe only a couple of us know about. He does not think we will make it too complicated. If they want help we will try to make it as easy to navigate as possible. What is available and how to get to it. We are not the only avenue. We know that. We want to coordinate.

Mr. Dettelbach asked will there be a form that people fill out that are in need. Can we put the form in the website and make it digital.

Ms. Mabel asked if we have the capability can we make it a registration place.

Mr. Sanchez asked like a database.

Chair Calvert asked is that information not available anywhere else.

Ms. Mabel said maybe it is but we could capture names and numbers for outreach.

Chair Calvert asked isn't there a database with known Veterans in the Santa Fe area.

Mr. Dettelbach said there are databases available for certain segments of Veterans. We should reach out to those. With a strong public relations and marketing campaign as to successes you will see a ground swell.

Mr. Hughes said have sign - in sheet so they can get emails from us.

Ms. Mabel said or an events calendar.

awesome and amazing the things we can do. A year from now he thinks we will have a lot of praise for what we are doing from our hearts.

Mr. Carver asked since this is a work in progress, when you get to the City resources and links will you will get with other Veterans organizations.

Chair Calvert said this is just an example for today.

Mr. Scargall said we will include anything that is working in Santa Fe and the surrounding area. We are hoping for a motion for dedicating space on your website to honor the USS Santa Fe and her crew.

Mr. Dettelbach said there is no need for a motion. Just do it.

Mr. Scargall asked are there any objections.

There were no objections. Everyone was for it.

Mr. Carver said the crew has donated \$5,000 to Kitchen Angels as an example. If we can do something with this Board we want to.

#### **B. DISCUSSION REGARDING POTENTIAL ORGANIZATION TO ADMINISTER PORTION OF VETERANS FUNDS**

Chair Calvert said he does not have anything to report here. Carmen is going to go meet with the Santa Fe Community Foundation folks tomorrow.

Ms. Rodriguez said we talked about this at our last meeting regarding the Veterans Scholarship Fund. We thought maybe they could help us. They are having a meeting tomorrow about marketing. She is going and will get information and find out if they are willing to take the money and give us access to the money and operations. She will find out how it works and then come back to the next meeting with the information.

Mr. Scargall asked is that an open meeting.

Ms. Rodriguez said yes.

Mr. Scargall said he will attend as well.

Ms. Rodriguez said we wanted to know what we can do with these funds as far as administration. They do that for other non - profits.

Mr. Scargall said we will follow up on that. The Veterans Family Assistance Fund

Ms. Mabel asked what happens if we don't exhaust the funds this year.

Mr. Dettelbach said Greg will need to get the word out. He doesn't think we will have a problem of using the money.

Mr. Abeyta said we need a definition of dependents. Who is a dependent.

Mr. Dettelbach said we have a definition for a dependent that works. He will get that sent to him.

Mr. Scargall said it is an immediate family member or a child under the age of 28.

Mr. Sanchez asked so we have to give this to the Community Foundation in two separate checks.

Chair Calvert said we are not there yet.

Chair Calvert said this is the 9<sup>th</sup> of December. Things don't go as fast in December. We would have to hand walk this around and he is willing to do that. It is a good opportunity. We have to have official action for them to act on. We can work on this now and not wait on an official meeting but we have to have a Special Meeting. We need to agree on a special meeting date. We have to notice it.

Mr. Sanchez said we have to make sure we can do this as well.

Mr. Hughes asked if we do it next year we can still get it matched.

Mr. Dettelbach said we can do it again with Federal monies. For now he got the Foundation to deviate from their rules to match this out of Foundation funds. They have agreed to it.

Chair Calvert said to clarify, these scholarships are to the Community College or higher education institutions.

Mr. Dettelbach said yes, for all degrees.

Ms. Rodriguez said this is only for the Santa Fe Community College and Higher Education Center.

Mr. Mabel said maybe in the future all new business action items should allow us to vote.

Chair Calvert said that it the point of having it noticed on the agenda. So people can comment. That is the system.

mixed answers of which Disabled Veterans are eligible. It states that all Veterans will receive senior citizen rates while Disabled Veterans will receive free memberships. He went to Genova Chavez and was offered a free membership. He went to Ft. Marcy and was rejected. He went to Ft. Marcy with the Resolution and was told he had to be 100% disabled and over the age of 63 to receive a free membership. Even after he showed her the Resolution. They said they would work on it. People are upset that the centers are keeping them from the benefit. He got documentation and Mr. Scargall got a memo from Rob Carter that reminded staff that the Resolution passed and that all community centers are to charge the senior membership fee to all Veterans and free to Disabled Veterans. We have a breakdown right now. We want to have a meeting with the Mayor to figure out what is going on.

Chair Calvert said some people think the Resolution is open to interpretation. We need to have a discussion with the Administration with recommendations from this Board.

Ms. Seaton said when you go and ask for clarification on the Resolution ask for the broadest interpretation.

Ms. Mabel said on a logistical standpoint at the center if they have a card that says the disability is service connected it would be easier. For stipulating a percentage they would have to have a letter

Mr. Sanchez said the Mayor appointed you guys to inform him on issues. He will coordinate a meeting with the Mayor and City Manager.

Mr. Scargall said he and the Chair will go. He wanted to let the Board know that he is not giving up.

Mr. Hughes said you go in and ask for all Disabled Veterans.

#### **D. APPROVAL 2016 VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING CALENDAR**

Chair Calvert said the schedule in your packet follows the second Wednesday except for November, June and August due to holidays.

Mr. Scargall said it would be beneficial to have the meeting before Veterans Day so change that.

Changes were made to reflect the Board's concerns and the issue of meeting on the second Wednesday of the month.

**MOTION** A motion was made by Ms. Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Scargall, to



