



Agenda

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VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, May 10, 2017

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: March 8, 2017
4. New Business/Action Items:
 - a. Presentation: Martin Gallegos, Servant of the Heart Life Skill Center
 - b. Subcommittee: Assignments
 - Admin & Budget
 - Friends of VAB
 - Education/Employment
 - Homeless Veteran Support
 - Emergency Relief
 - Community Events & Marketing
 - c. Discuss and Recommend: Non-Emergency Veteran Requests
5. Old Business:
 - a. Update: VAB Block Grant
 - b. Update: City of Santa Fe Veterans Coordinator Position
6. Comments from the Chair and Advisory Members
 - a. Budget Update
 - b. Update: VIC
7. Report from Staff
8. Public Comment
9. Adjournment

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SUMMARY OF ACTION
VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD
MARKET STATION CONFERENCE ROOM
500 MARKET STATION
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2017, 3:00 PM

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**VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD
MARKET STATION CONFERENCE ROOM
500 MARKET STATION
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2017, 3:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Veterans Advisory Board was called to order by Chris Calvert, Chair, at 3:00 pm, on Wednesday, May 10, 2017, at the Market Station Conference Room, 500 Market Station, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chris Calvert, Chair
Greg Scargall, Vice Chair
Kenneth Dettelbach
Dorothy Seaton
Chris Abeyta
Phillip Hernandez

MEMBERS ABSENT

Sigrid Hannah Mabel, Excused
Carmen Rodriguez, Excused
Henry BF Hughes

OTHERS PRESENT

Julie Sanchez, City of Santa Fe
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Seaton asked that a presentation from Ms. Mabel be added to the agenda.

Chair Calvert said he would add it under item 6.

MOTION A motion was made by Ms. Seaton, seconded by Mr. Dettelbach, to approve the agenda as amended.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION A motion was made by Mr. Dettelbach, seconded by Mr. Abeyta, to approve the minutes as presented.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

4. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

Chair Calvert said he was glad to be back and happy to see everyone.

A. PRESENTATION, MARTIN GALLEGOS, SERVANT OF THE HEART LIFE SKILLS CENTER

This item was postponed.

B. SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

1. ADMINISTRATION AND BUDGET

Ms. Seaton said that in anticipation of doing a presentation for the Governing Body or others, she has completed a draft Excel spread sheet showing our activities. She has been working with Julie on the project and they will be meeting this week to fine tune the data fields.

Chair Calvert said he hopes the categories will mesh with the budget.

Ms. Seaton said yes, we are working on that.

Chair Calvert said informally he asked DVS about the income tax checkoff for this year and was told that they did not have any information at this time.

2. FRIENDS OF VAB

Mr. Dettelbach reported that Mark French has agreed to serve on the Board. He took Mr. French to the last VVA 996 meeting and he made a presentation for the Hank Hughes group. We wrote a check for them right away. He thinks other candidates should be invited to this Board meeting as well. He would be glad to meet with them and let them know the responsibilities and benefits. They will be touching a lot of Veterans, Veterans groups and a lot of people who support Veterans. He would like to see other people bring to the table other potential Board members. Once we get 3 he will file the paperwork.

Mr. Scargall asked did you send the letter he sent to him. It was a recruitment letter.

Mr. Dettelbach said he sent it to a few people. He has never gotten much response from the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Scargall asked don't they do a lot of social networking.

Mr. Dettelbach said it is a thought process. He wants to identify targets and go after them. Maybe he is wrong.

Mr. Scargall said we have been talking about this for 4 or 5 months and the process we are using has only produced 1 person. Maybe we need to sort through some bodies.

Mr. Dettelbach asked that each Board member write down 3 people who would be interested.

Mr. Scargall said we have already tried that as well. After our March meeting he sent a recruitment letter out to Mr. Dettelbach and our Chair. You have connections. That is one of the assets you bring to the committee. It would be advantageous to cast the net as wide and far as we can. The letter states the responsibilities and benefits very explicitly.

Mr. Dettelbach said then send him the letter again. He will copy everyone with who it goes out to.

Mr. Scargall said he is willing to go see people like Simon Brackley at the Chamber but you are already an insider.

Mr. Dettelbach said he could put an article into the Association newsletters that go out monthly. He has not done anything with VFW because they just got re-instituted.

Mr. Scargall said we want someone from the community who is interested in investing the time and energy to raise money.

Chair Calvert said the Chamber has mixers.

Mr. Dettelbach said yes, they have After Hours and breakfast meetings.

Chair Calvert said make a pitch at one of those meetings.

Mr. Scargall said he just sent the letter to Mr. Dettelbach and our Chair.

Chair Calvert said this should be a group effort. Go through your contacts and think about it. He has a potential candidate that may pan out. It is through relationships and the organizations you participate in that we will find Board members. It is not just Ken's homework assignment.

Ms. Seaton said that is how she came up with Mark French. She reached out to her neighbors. One of them came up with him and she contact him. They hooked up with Ken and here we are. If you ask people who are not candidates they may know someone who is a candidate.

Mr. Dettelbach asked does the Board have to be all Veterans.

Everyone said no.

Mr. Scargall said that is what the letter says as well. We want people who want to help Veterans.

Chair Calvert said they can be non Veterans. We try to keep this Board Veterans.

3. EDUCATION/EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Scargall said we have issued out the scholarships for the Spring. He has applications for the Fall semester. The deadline is July 7th. He reviewed the eligibility requirements for Veterans and dependents.

Chair Calvert asked the college is matching one to one again, right.

Mr. Scargall said yes.

Chair Calvert said he heard that they want to set up a ceremony with the father and daughter recipients.

Mr. Scargall said there was a small article in the college paper talking about the scholarships and all the work Mr. Dettelbach had done. He still thinks we need to do a certificate or a photo op with the Mayor or Councillors at a City Council meeting. One of the Veterans receiving the scholarship told him that they feel that someone has invested in them. He told her it was not easy to get this scholarship to come to fruition. We believed in you before we knew you. It does give them a new lease on life. We are missing a golden opportunity here. We could give more recognition to our commitment as a Board and the City partnership by recognizing this effort.

Mr. Dettelbach said there is a slight Achilles heel to this whole thing. We need to advertise it more. He is working with a grandchild who wants to do film and get

educated here. The Seattle Film Company just signed a contract with the Art and Design college. We need to somehow get that educational benefit out. He is thinking of doing something with Next Door. We are going to start promoting the Veteran scholarship program there.

Mr. Scargall said we have not had an issue of awarding scholarships. We wanted to help the most amount of people possible. The Foundation wanted to help the most amount of people with the least amount. He wanted to do the most people with most amount. It was a battle. You can market it but it is the exposure we get that helps.

Chair Calvert said perhaps using some of the other resources at the Community College, like the film program, could make a class project to help publicize the program.

Mr. Scargall said there has never been a time that no one applied for the scholarships. We have turned people away. It is a competitive scholarship. We are only helping a few but in a substantial way.

Chair Calvert said a presentation with the Mayor and Councilors is good. Do you want to approach Julie to make that happen.

Mr. Scargall said yes, it should happen. It would be significant. The program does not run through his office. All he does is verify DD214s or other documents and then it runs through the Financial Aid Office.

Chair Calvert said he thinks Julie and Chris will want a presentation from this Board about what we have done and are doing and perhaps we could coordinate that at the same time to have some of those people from the Community College who have received the scholarships come. He will work with staff.

Mr. Dettelbach asked would this group be interested in having lunch with the President and a tour to see what is going on at the College. We are doing some great things.

Chair Calvert said he knows a lot of good things are going on out there but does not know if he needs a tour of it. He is just speaking for himself.

Chair Calvert said Phillip you wanted to be on this committee.

Mr. Hernandez said yes, it is a good fit for him.

Mr. Scargall said you can take on being the Chair of it.

Mr. Hernandez said he would Chair it.

Mr. Hernandez announced a hiring event and handed out flyers. Please feel free to refer people to this event. There are jobs available to apply for.

4. HOMELESS VETERAN SUPPORT

There was no report due to the absence of Mr. Hughes.

5. EMERGENCY RELIEF

Mr. Scargall said the committee considered one request in this category since our last meeting and it was denied. It was for Ray Belcher. The request was to pay rent for the studio he has. It is a commercial building and we felt that a homeless person should be asking for rent for a stable residence not his studio. We not going to rubber stamp any request that comes our way. We are stewards of public money. If he had the ability and the wealth he would help all of them out of his own pocket.

Chair Calvert said he stays there at the studio sometimes.

Mr. Scargall said why not help him with housing.

Chair Calvert said that is his choice.

Mr. Scargall said he knows we are not here to choose someones path. Assistance is not guaranteed.

Ms. Seaton said she wanted to point out that there was a report sent out with requests and awards.

6. COMMUNITY EVENTS AND MARKETING

Mr. Dettelbach said he has no report.

Mr. Abeyta said Santa Fe Bandstand is starting up on July 4th. As the MC, he can always announce activities and /or set up a Veterans table if we want. He just needs the information so he can clear it.

Chair Calvert said thank you. There is going to be a meeting on May 18th at 5:00 pm at the Convention Center that will give the opportunity for Veterans to have a conversation with the head of the National Cemetery, Susan Parks. Jerry Martinez is putting out the word but the meeting will be broad in nature. It will be about the future of the Cemetery and there will be an opportunity for questions and to share concerns and input.

Mr. Dettelbach said it will also be about discussing the laying of headstones flat instead of upright.

Chair Calvert said the 5.7 acres donated by the City to the Cemetery has that restriction to it but only that 5.7 acres. Susan has a rationale about the act passed by Congress that they be laid flat. He understands the concerns but this has not come about because a Neighborhood Association in Santa Fe wants them to be flat.

Mr. Dettelbach said there will also be a discussion about the fact that by 2020 the existing Cemetery will be filled and not available. They are looking for new Cemetery north of Albuquerque.

Mr. Scargall said there are 4 State Veterans cemeteries going in around the State.

Chair Calvert said they will be talking about the National Cemetery. She will speak to those issues.

Mr. Dettelbach said we would like as many Veterans there as we can get.

Chair Calvert said there will be free parking for this event.

Chair Calvert announced that the National Cemetery Memorial Day Ceremony will be on May 29th.

Ms. Sanchez said she will forward the details when they are available.

Chair Calvert said we also, as a group, talked about having a 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Ceremony at the John Griego Vietnam Veterans Park around August 7th. Has the subcommittee started working on that. On the Memorial at the Park it says the VFW local post was responsible for the Memorial.

Mr. Scargall said that is a Monday, it would be better on a Saturday.

Chair Calvert said Saturday was the intent. There are 17 names on the Memorial now. 16 confirmed dead and one missing in action.

Ms. Sanchez said we do have money for event planning. The subcommittee is responsible for that.

Chair Calvert said there are 4 people on the subcommittee. He is mentioning this because it seems like a long way off but it is only 3 months. He is glad to help wherever he can.

Mr. Scargall said we need to have a meeting at the Park in the next 2 weeks to see the space and brainstorm some ideas.

Chair Calvert said the idea was to invite people from those families.

Ms. Sanchez said we could get a Proclamation done.

Chair Calvert said we were also going to have food and drink after the ceremony.

Mr. Scargall said we should partner with the VFW or VVA996.

Chair Calvert said it is a Vietnam specific event.

Mr. Dettelbach said once we have determined what to do we can get a flyer going and he will take responsibility of educating the VVA 996, the Legion and VFW.

Chair Calvert asked what are the next steps.

Mr. Scargall said the next step is meeting at the Park and get the vision together. We could do a banner.

Chair Calvert said not a special banner for the occasion. We can use the flag that commemorated the 50th anniversary of Vietnam.

Mr. Scargall said we are trying to coordinate with the Arts Commission to do something tasteful on that back side. We need permission to put something there.

Mr. Scargall said the VFW needs to be a flagship sponsor.

Mr. Hernandez said they are having a function on Friday evening. He can go there and talk to them.

Ms. Sanchez asked that he update her after that.

Chair Calvert said talk to them about their participation and the back side of the Memorial and gauge their interest in enhancing it.

Ms. Seaton said maybe they can sponsor the meal.

Chair Calvert said Mr. Dettelbach is the Chair of this committee. Please work out with Greg Scargall a meeting time and date.

It was decided that Board members Scargall, Hernandez, Abeyta, Calvert and Dettelbach will meet at the Park on May 17th, at 10:00 am.

Ms. Sanchez asked that they update her on the meeting.

Chair Calvert asked that Ms. Sanchez get with the Parks Department.

Chair Calvert said we also had a discussion about the film on Khe Sanh.

Mr. Dettelbach said the DVD can be shown anywhere. It is available to be shown and is a very intense film. At other showings they have had to have EMTs present to deal with reactions to the film. Why are you asking.

Chair Calvert said you brought it up in January and he thought we were going to have an event around that. We are responsible, as a Board, to do 2 events around the 50th Anniversary and we talked about this as one of them. Maybe it could be shown at Violet Crown.

Mr. Dettelbach said there is a fee of \$300 to the people who created it. They are showing it around the Country. We can pursue it around November 10th, Veterans Day. VVA 996 decided not to do it because of the psychological issues around it.

Chair Calvert said the gentleman he talked to about becoming a Board member for Friends of the VAB was at Khe Sanh.

Ms. Seaton said the timing around Veterans Day may not be good. It is a busy time for Veterans. Maybe we should look at another day.

Mr. Dettelbach said it will take a lot of time to do with issues like having EMS available.

Chair Calvert said he brought it up because you brought it up before.

Mr. Dettelbach said he does not think we are ready for something like this. We will have to house survivors for a panel discussion if you want that part.

Chair Calvert said if we want that.

Mr. Dettelbach said let's table this until the next meeting so he can check some more.

C. DISCUSS AND RECOMMEND NON EMERGENCY VETERAN REQUESTS

There were no requests.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. UPDATE: VAB BLOCK GRANT

Ms. Sanchez said the RFP has been completed. It will be released next week.

Chair Calvert asked Ms. Sanchez to send the RFP to him again.

Ms. Sanchez said she will send it out to everyone. There will be a 2 week turnaround time. They will receive notification of the award quickly. We should have the contract in place by June 30th.

Mr. Abeyta had to leave the meeting.

B. UPDATE: CITY OF SANTA FE VETERANS COORDINATOR POSITION

Ms. Sanchez said this is pending review but she will know by the next meeting.

Chair Calvert said the City has approved it's budget for next year and it is not in that budget.

Ms. Sanchez said no.

6. COMMENTS FROM CHAIR AND ADVISORY MEMBERS

Ms. Seaton said she received a package from Hannah Mabel that included a certificate and flag for this Board. The flag was flown over her camp in Africa.

Chair Calvert read the statement that came with the flag.

Mr. Scargall said this is awesome.

Ms. Seaton said it is a joint base. Other flags and certificates were also sent for the Women Veterans Organization and the Mayor so she has not forgotten about us.

Chair Calvert said let's do a picture with all of us around the flag and send it back to her. The picture was taken.

Chair Calvert said Carmen Rodriguez is nice and lovely but is not attending the meetings. At some point maybe he should speak with her about membership and attendance. Any thoughts.

There was discussion and it was decided that Chair Calvert should speak with Ms. Rodriguez.

Chair Calvert said we are probably losing Hank Hughes as a member as well. He was asked by the Mayor to work on homelessness for him. He is thinking he will not have time to do both.

Ms. Seaton said she will tell the one Veteran who asked her about membership that there is an opening.

Mr. Scargall asked are there some specific roles we need to fill on this Board.

Chair Calvert said people were not put on here for specific positions. The enabling Legislative says to have a diversity of skills. How are the rest of us on our terms.

Ms. Sanchez said everyone is current in their terms.

Chair Calvert asked when is Ms. Rodriguez's term up.

Ms. Sanchez said in May.

Chair Calvert said at our next meeting we should consider recommendations for candidates. He asked Ms. Sanchez to bring any previous applications for membership to the meeting and to send the Board information and any new ones. We will put this on our agenda for the next meeting. We will have 2 open seats.

7. REPORT FROM STAFF

A. BUDGET UPDATE

Ms. Sanchez reported that the VAB budget of \$80,000 was approved. The report is in the packet. We do have carry over but will not know the exact amount until the end of the fiscal year.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Scargall said we need to congratulate Phillip Hernandez on a new baby and a new house. Everyone congratulated him.

A. UPDATE VIC

Ms. Sanchez said the VIC report is in the packet.

The report was reviewed and questions were asked. It was determined that future reports from the VIC need to follow the format, be more detailed, include narratives and examples and include more statistics and numbers of people served in

what categories. Ms. Sanchez will contact the VIC about these requests.

Ms. Sanchez said she and Mr. Sanchez want to sign up the VAB to speak before the Governing Body this summer, probably in August. We are getting all of our Committees and Boards to do this so that they have a full understanding of what they all do.

Chair Calvert said we need documentation as to what has been accomplished and that information needs to be included in the packet for Councilors for that meeting. We also could have the scholarship recipients there to be recognized.

Mr. Hernandez announced that he is working on having a Veteran Summit like the one here last year but in another part of the State.


Mr. Scargall said he is hosting a luncheon at his office on Friday at noon. Everyone is invited. Also tomorrow at 5:00 pm we do a free acupuncture clinic for Veterans.

Ms. Sanchez said the next meeting will be on June 14th.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.


Chris Calvert, Chair


Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer