



City of Las Cruces[®]

Veterans Advisory Board Agenda

The following Agenda will be considered at a regular meeting of the Veterans Advisory Board to be held April 25, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at City Hall, Conference Room 2007 A, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

1. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum
2. Acceptance of Agenda
3. Veterans Advisory Board Minutes

Documents:

[VAB MINUTES - MARCH 28 2023.PDF](#)

4. Board Member Reports
 - 4.1 Board Reports
 - 4.2 City Staff comments
5. Public Participation
 - 5.1 Public comment (3 minutes)
6. Old Business
 - 6.1 Veterans Memorial Park- Parking lot expansion update.
7. New Business
 - 7.1 Community Engagement
 - 7.2 Jeremy Chino (CEPC)
8. Reminders
 - 8.1 Next VAB meeting – May 23,2023
 - 8.2 Mother's Day-Garrison Flag Ceremony- May 14, 2032
 - 8.3 Armed Forces Day-Garrison Flag Ceremony - May 20, 2023
 - 8.4 Memorial Day (Half-Staff until 1200 hours)-Garrison Flag Ceremony

9. 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/TTY.

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Veterans Advisory Board Minutes March 28, 2023

Date: March 28, 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
 Mike Cano, Member at Large Number 3

Board Members Absent:

Patrick Ramirez, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10124 (VFW)
 Jesse Addison, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3242 (VFW)

City Staff Present:

Larry Nichols, Community Development Director
 Franco Granillo, Parks and Recreation
 David Viarreal, Public Works

<i>AGENDA ITEM</i>	<i>TIME RECORDING</i>	<i>DISCUSSIONS/CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS</i>	<i>ACTION TAKEN</i>
1. Call to Order	09:02	Chair Woods - called the meeting of the Veterans Advisory Board to order.	Board acknowledged Pledge by VAB
2. Approval of Agenda	09:03	Agenda reviewed by VAB-Motion to accept the agenda for March 28, 2023	VAB unanimously approved
3. Approval of Minutes	09:04	Minutes from February 28, 2023, meeting reviewed by VAB, motion to accept the minutes with corrections.	VAB unanimously approved

**4. Board
Member
Reports**

09:06

4.1 BOARD REPORTS

Hector Sanchez

Member at Large Number 2-Student

- Spring 2023 Picnic at NMSU, attended by 130 people and 10 vendors, was very successful
- Cord Ceremony will be at 6 pm on May 5 at the Corbett Center to honor graduating veterans

Victor Eres

Marine Corps League

- had honors at 8 funerals Feb. 28 through March 28.
- had color guards at the Women's Veterans Monument anniversary and at the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans event
- Spring Military Honors Burial Conference is on April 21, 9am -11am at Sonoma Ranch
- there is usually a second conference in Albuquerque around August

John Poland

American Legion Post 10

- recruiting high school juniors for boy's state & girls state, a premier governmental instruction program
- planning on feeding 300 riders for the Run for the Wall on May 19
- will have the Annual American Legion Memorial Day wreath presentation on May 28 at St. Joseph Cemetery, will place flags here and then at Dona Ana cemetery.
- reaching out to see if we can provide some relief funding to the American Legion state headquarters in Mississippi whose buildings were destroyed by the tornado.
- next Honor Flight to Washington DC is from April 27th through April 29 with 33 veterans (3 Korean War veteran, 1 Korean & Vietnam Wars, 29 Vietnam War) including Hubert Gay.

Daniel Ansbach

Special Forces Association

- nothing to report at this time

Sam Bothern

DAV Chapter 10

- nothing to report at this time

Hubert Gay

VVA Vietnam Veterans of America

- discussion of Veteran's Park availability to the public. A limitation has been made to curtail such activities as soccer and baseball practice.
- the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans event was scheduled from 8 am to 1:30 after which the park would be available to the public. It was noted that a man began setting up for his party at 11:30 and did not clean up properly afterwards. Franco Granillo of the Parks Dept. stated that permits are given only for Veterans events. Other usage of the park is on first come first served basis. All agreed, people using the park should be respectful if a Veterans event is in progress. For veterans to have control of all that occurs in the park it would have to

be privatized which would involve some kind of lease and veterans taking on maintenance, staffing etc.

James Turner

Member at Large Number 1

-speaking on behalf of Post 10124. The Welcome Home event did not go as smoothly as hoped. Many persons did a lot of hard work but there was a logistics problem. Food was not served until after 11am and as a result they lost half of our clientele. Mr. Turner apologize for this.

Mike Cano

Member at Large Number 3

-commended to Mr. Nichols on his speech at the Welcome Home Event and thanked him, Franco Granillo and other staff for their efforts on behalf of VAB and veterans
-three members of the cub scout troop chartered by VFW Post 4384 presented the colors at the Welcome Home Veterans Event. There was a lot of positive feed back about having children participate. They thanked Bruce and Hubert for letting them do this.

Rod Gajewski

Military Order of Purple Heart (MOPH)

-the candlelight vigil will be held on May 29 at Veterans Park. The names of 204 residents of Dona Ana Co. who have passed since the Spanish American war will be read.
-still need about 30 more sponsors to place an electric candle on the wall as they read the name of the fallen, and then the name of the sponsor. Please call at 575-644-1045 to volunteer. Ceremony begins at 8 am. Candles stay on the wall overnight and are taken down the following day.

Christine Sauter

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)

-Mayfield JRTC ceremony will be held on April 4

Karen Woods

United Military Women of the Southwest (UMSW)

-Garrison Flag Day on April 9

4.2 CITY STAFF COMMENTS

Franco Granillo

Parks and Recreation

-6 ADA accessible tables under gazebo at veterans park were damaged with replacement cost of between \$6000 and \$7000.
-there is significant additional damage there that is being reviewed
-one of the cameras that may have helped identify the culprits was blown down, the second redirected and therefore not useful - discussion followed about identifying the culprits and holding them accountable. Hubert Gay said he filed a police report on the vandalism of the tables, and it is still open.

		<p>Larry Nichols provided data supplied by the clerk's office:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expiration of term July 2023, Eligible for reappointment: John Poland, James Turner, Hubert Gay 2. Expiration of term July 2023, Not eligible for reappointment: Rod Gajewski, Patrick Ramirez 3. Expiration of term July 2024: Karen Woods, Christine Sautter, Victor Eres, Mike Cano, Hector Sanchez 4. Expiration of term July 2025: Jesse Addison, Sam Bothern, Daniel Ansbach 	
<p>5. Public Participation</p>	<p>10:03</p>	<p>Montavious Price <i>Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist & Liaison for the 3rd Judicial Veterans court</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -had 2 graduates in the current quarter, one with own business employing other veterans, the other employed at White Sands. A past graduate has started his own gym for MMA and boxing. -May 17 VA 2K to benefit the homeless veteran population seeking donations of toiletries, personal products to hand out -in response to question on acquisition of a building by the VAB, Mr. Price had no knowledge -in response to question Team 5 leader resignation etc., 30 positions have been filled, work continues on this situation -in response to question about use of PEAK, he is not aware of any change -now have 6 clients in that court, staffing problems in the DA's office are resulting in this number being low <p>Jason White <i>PGHA Hope</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -free (including equipment and whatever is needed) military active veteran program approved as a therapeutic through the VA in partnership with PGA Reach -about 100 veterans & active military have gone through the las Cruces program -PGA Reach currently has raised \$50 million in its \$100 million capital campaign <p>Don Hon <i>Veteran and graduate of PGAAHope</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -expressed admiration for the program's ability to help veterans with mobility & disability issues who were self-isolating and are now able to get out <p>Dawn Armstrong, Patrick Cahill <i>Home Based Primary Care Medical Foster Home Team</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -attended Veteran's County Summit, there will be another meeting at NMSU -have partnered with Casa de Peregrinos to provide food for veterans with food insecurity for the next 7 holidays starting with Easter. Food will be delivered to their location; Dawn & Patrick will deliver it. 	

		<p>Susana Santillan <i>State of New Mexico Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing</i> -provide free technology (iPad, simplified phone, caption phone etc.) -provide help when proper assistance that is not being provided. Ex: worked with a court to provide captioned info. on a screen (CART) when the assisted listening device provided was not sufficient to enable effective communication as required by ADA</p> <p>Dale Palmer -offered his views on park usage as well as location of VAB meeting</p> <p>Larry Nichols announced that the April 25 meeting will be in Rm 2007B. Someone would be hired to take the minutes. This change resulted from a conversation between the Chair and the Asst. City Manager. After much discussion a vote was taken to continue meeting in the Council Chambers. Mr. Nichols will meet with the city manager and convey the board's wishes.</p>	
6. Old Business	10:27	<p>6.1 David Viarreal <i>Public Works Project Manager</i> -slides of overview of construction project, the arroyo requiring bank stabilization and landscaping plan with cost estimate (copies of slides will be provided to VAB) -projected timeline: design completion at end of May, out to bid in June, construction through end of the year -entrance & exit to the park issues have been addressed -Mr. Nichols added that a driving force of the cost increase was dealing with the arroyo between the neighboring apartment complex consisting of 26 structures and the park expansion.</p> <p>6.2 After Action Report - Larry Nichols -said that attendees agreed that the ceremony which included reading of names, Marine Corps salute and the playing of taps was meaningful to the veterans and all present. In his remarks he noted that attitudes toward Vietnam veterans have changed over the years due to events like this. "Our family loves deeply, supports courageously, defends honorably, gives generously, and prays incessantly.</p>	
7. New Business	10:40	No new business to report	Read into record
8. Reminders	10:41	<p>April 25th meeting in Rm 2007B on 2nd floor Spring Military Honors Burial conference April 28 at Sonoma Ranch Cord Ceremony May 5th May 17 VA 2K to benefit homeless veterans.</p>	

9. Adjournment	10:43	Karen Woods , requested motion to adjourn	VAB unanimously approved by voice vote
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