



Veterans' and Military Affairs Advisory Board

New Mexico Veterans' Memorial
January 20, 2016

Minutes

Those Present:

Roger Newall, Archie Garcia, Stephen Asher, Steve Overman, Pat Gaston, Brian Leen, Chris Timm, Mike Scramski
SECRETARY: Beth Hemmerich
GUESTS: Elinor Reiners and Craig Gaymon

Those Excused:

Ken O'Keefe, David Sparks, Jonathan Strawn, and Martin Ethridgehill

- I. Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Roger Newall at 9:05 am
- II. Review and Accept of Minutes from November 18, 2015
 - The motion to accept the September minutes was approved.
 - No changes or corrections
- III. Public Comments
 - Craig Gaymon introduced himself to the group as a representative from Lawyers Helping Warriors. The organization is a 501(c)3 that assists veterans with receiving disability as a first claim or denied claim. The organization currently has funding so there is no charge to the veterans.
- IV. Unfinished Business
 - Roger Newall updated the group about the coin project. He stated that the project is getting requests, which is good, but that the coins are down to the last batch, which is bad. He is working on getting a re-order placed. The original order was for 600 coins and those have all been given out. They then started an application to receive a coin and this was used for an additional 450. This project needs funding to place the re-order.
 - Roger informed the group of the hiring process. He stated that the City is at a 10-12% hiring rate, whereas many Federal agencies are at 2-3%. The City is at a good number.
 - There are a few board member positions that will be up in September.
 - Roger introduced Elinor Reiners of the NMVIC for an update on the VIC.
 - Elinor informed the group that the NMVIC has a current location that they are focusing on for the new facilities. This location is located at Eastern and El Dorado. (map attached)
 - They are in the process of doing applications for affordable housing.
 - The new property build will consist of two phases. Phase 1 – Move existing facilities and Phase 2 – Independence living. These phases will be spaced 2 years apart to continue funding. Phase 1 is funded by private funding and Phase 2 will funding will be solicited when the time comes.
 - Elinor stated that what the NMVIC needs from this group is support. Support in legislation and support in council.
 - Elinor is currently updating all areas of the surrounding property area to inform neighbors of this new NMVIC project/development.
 - Roger informed the group that the new legislative session started on January 17th. This session reintroduced House Bill 96, which provides price preference for veteran contractors. This bill has been re-written to not limit the old law; it cleans up the language and removes the cap which limits use to the businesses who need the assistance and puts a limit dollar amount for users.

- Chris Timm updated the group on a future event for Run for the Wall. This event will come through Albuquerque on May 19-20, 2016. He also informed the board of a fundraiser event Biker Chili Challenge set for February 20, 2016, to raise funds for Run for the Wall.

V. New Business

- The 75th Anniversary of Kirtland Air Force Base is this year. The board would like to participate and wants to know how they can get involved with helping plan the celebrations.
- Chris Timm informed the group that the Museum of Military History is closing and they are looking for a storage location for their military vehicles. If anyone knows a large warehouse, please let him know.
- Santa Fe is starting a Mayors Veterans Council, which will operate similar to this meeting.

VI. Setting of Future Meetings – February 17 at 9:00 am at the NM Veterans’ Memorial.

VII. Adjourn – 10:25 am.

DRAFT