



Veterans' and Military Affairs Advisory Board

New Mexico Veterans' Memorial

February 19, 2014

Minutes

- I. Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Roger Newall at 9:05 am
 - a. Present: Chairman Roger Newall, Vice Chairman Archie Garcia, Ken O'Keefe, Louis Tafoya, Steve Overman, Brian Leen
 - b. Absent: Stephen Asher, Pat Gaston, Elise wheeler
 - c. Pending Members: Gary Zura, Diallo, Dphrepaulezz, Caroling Blanc

- II. Approval of Minutes from January 15, 2014
 - a. The January minutes were accepted with a correction to Pat Gaston's attendance.

- III. Public Comments – No Public Participation

- IV. Old Business
 - a. Albuquerque Employee Coins
 - i. Still just fewer than 400. Distributing slowly but have under 100. Difficulty meeting with Police Department to offer information. Offering to Fire Department. Response is still outstanding with them.
 - ii. Question was made: How is this information being offered to the Police / Contact Procedures? Chiefs have been contacted, online application on City's Employee Website.
 - iii. Has the approach been made to visit the sites to make contact with Commanders? Commanders have been approached.
 - b. Hiring Preference
 - i. Has been interesting. Arduously trying to get it back to where it was. GEOGOV is a mass site used by everyone. Has been reduced it to a single paragraph asking if applicant is a veteran or not. IT has been approached to make appropriate changes. Changes should not interfere with the application process.
 - ii. Police Department and Fire Department have been asked to participate with the program so as to include veterans with the Departments.
 - iii. Roger suggested two weeks prior to offer a basic EMT class for those interested.
 - iv. Police Department's concern is credits across the board and/or 3 years of Active Duty.
 - v. Question was made; What is the basic length of Active Enlistment? Answer was few as two (2), as much as eight (8).
 - vi. There was continued discussion about qualifications
 - c. Legislation
 - i. Talked about Legislative Agenda
 1. Child Custody Protection – informed that they would be voting on it but no vote came from it. Still in Committee. Still on Speakers table.
 - ii. Tax Exemption – Will probably not make it this year but ground work has been done for next year.
 - iii. Was Budget passed? Passed at midnight.

- iv. A question was raised about Transportation and what has become of it. Transit says to move forward with it. At the moment transit is in the middle of budget meetings in the Mayor's office. Internal changes need to be made to make it work. Ridership will be limited to those that have a Hospital ID card. Part of Hospital ID card includes that the individual is part of the Hospital Program.
- v. Service Dogs – and its legitimacy for those that abuse it was broached. However this will be a topic for a future meeting.

d. Future Events

- i. City is Co-Sponsoring with The Museum of the American Military Family a showing of a Documentary of "Brown Babies" taking place February 27, 2014. 7:00 – 8:00 pm at the South Broadway Cultural Center. Admission is Free

V. New Business

a. Fisher House

- i. A group of figure heads will be the faces in the program (i.e. Mayor, Governor, City Councilor, and Congressmen Representatives) not for fundraising but rather for support.
- ii. Roger and Tim will deal with the actual funding - \$3,000,000. 00 in 18-24 months.
- iii. It has been established that a 501 (c) (3) will not be created. As a short term process, money will be raised for the construction, not the maintenance and upkeep.
- iv. The agreement is that when the money is raised it can be sent directly to Fisher House Corp. They will identify it as a separate account to come back to Albuquerque.
- v. Concerns were raised by the American Legion and it was explained that
 - 1. 19 certifications do not allow them to raise money.
 - 2. They would have to do a 501 (c) (3).
 - 3. A supportive collaborative effort needs to take place to make this happen.
- vi. A negative pitch for Albuquerque
 - 1. It is not going to directly affect local Albuquerque Veteran residents because they don't live far enough away to use it. 50 mile radius will be a possible requirement for those that can benefit from it.
- vii. A positive pitch for Albuquerque
 - 1. It will present a better image of Albuquerque for having it here and benefiting all Veterans living outside the city.
- viii. Fisher House will be a 16 suite building. Looking into property between VA and Base. It has not been finalized until soil testing and other measures are taken.
 - 1. Operating Budget will come from VA Budget

b. 2014 Women Veterans of New Mexico Strategic Plan / 501 (c) (3) / Judy Quintana

- i. Albuquerque community is one of the Base locations. One of the focuses is to ensure that the Central Board is caring for Southern and Northern New Mexico. Girl Scouts is in full collaboration with the Gold Awards in support of helping and servicing the Homeless. Las Cruces; one of the ladies in that area has re-located to Albuquerque and oversees the Logistics component. Has connections w/Valentino in Socorro who will be able to help her with the locations in Socorro.
- ii. Working closely with the New Mexico Veterans Integration Center – At the moment a Mobile office is being used so they have asked the New Mexico Veterans Integration Center for office space.

- iii. Emergency Assistance – concern has risen with the Bus Pass. How are we inclusive of Veterans that do not qualify for VA card? Answer was they can still get Buss Passes. Money is still necessary to help those that need bus passes.
 - iv. Events – “Stand Down” participating in the Albuquerque committee. Making sure that adequate representation is in place at all locations.
 - v. Comment was made that collaboration between the groups needs to be made to strengthen resources and enhance efforts. Effective communication needs to happen since both entities have their own specialties that the other does not have and vice versa.
 - vi. Also collaborating with UNM
 - vii. Ms. Quintana was encouraged to participate with the Veterans Expo May 8th, 2014
 - c. Memorial Day is Monday May 26th. There are no Parades associated with Memorial Day so music will start at the NMVM Amphitheater at 9:00 am and the program will start at 10:00 am. We do not have a speaker as of yet.
 - d. July 4th – Concert is scheduled. A 44th Army Band – Army National Guard Group will perform again. A request for additional chairs from Cultural Services has been made since the stone benches are not enough. Coolers were brought in last year and they are encouraged to do so again, however it needs to be known that alcoholic beverages are prohibited. Fireworks will not be presented.
 - e. June 14th – Flag Day. Flag retirement ceremony is scheduled at 12:00 or 1:00 in Amphitheater. People are encouraged to bring in used or frayed flags to be properly disposed.
 - f. APD – received a grant for Security Cameras for the Memorial for vandalism purposes.
- VI. Setting of Future Meetings – March 19, 2014 at 9:00 am at the NM Veterans’ Memorial
- VII. Adjourn – 10:12 am.