

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY OF HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS VETERANS AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD HELD IN THE LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM AT CITY HALL, 1212 AVENUE M, HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS ON THE 18th DAY OF JULY, 2019, AT 5:30 P.M.

Members present: Leigh-Anne Stewart, Mike Christian, Liesa Hackett, Shane Loosier, Leta Reiner, Robert Tucker

Members absent: Bill Butler, Terry Batson, Tom Fordyce, Mark Robinson, Fernando Chavez, Wayne Keen, John McManners

Guests present: Lt. Colonel Joe Contreras

1. CALL TO ORDER – Leigh-Anne Byrd Stewart called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. DISCUSSION/ACTION

The Board met to discuss, hear presentations and/or reports and potentially take action on agenda items.

a. Approve minutes of last meeting - The June 2019 minutes were approved without objection.

b. Hear reports from committee members –

Liesa Hackett of the H.E.A.R.T.S. Museum, reported the Veterans Breakfast, held on the first Saturday of the month at the museum, is having good attendance and still looking for sponsors. She is continuing her visits with hospice veterans, helping them with paperwork and giving them donated quilts.

Mike Christian with the VFW said they are still working with a local veteran that needs extensive home repairs. This is an ongoing project, volunteers are welcomed.

Leigh-Anne Stewart, American Legion Auxiliary member, gave an update on the American Legion's recent convention in Irving. It was a great networking event and her unit won an award for their entry into a contest showing their support for MD Anderson. She reminded the board the Commander & Presidents' ball is in August, and new officers have taken office.

Leita Reiner spoke about her tenure with this board and her potential retirement. Reiner recommended a person from ROTC have a permanent advisory position on the VAAB. The Board discussed options and recommended Leita remain on the board and add Lt. Col. Joe Contreras to the board due to potential position. A motion was made by Liesa Hackett; seconded by Shane Loosier. The motion passed.

c. Future items, projects, and proposals. –

Liesa Hackett is coordinating a training on August 6, 2019, for members of the local clergy to teach them specifically how to work with veterans in the community. She added H.E.A.R.T.S. will have an event September 15-22, 2019 that will bring the "*Remembering the Fallen (Texas)*" wall to honor the more than 500 Texas veterans that have died since 9/11. This will be a week-long memorial program, targeting approximately 1/3 of the counties in Texas. It will host many guests/guest speakers with different programs daily.

d. Items of Community Interest – SHSU Professor of Military Science Lt. Col. Joe Contreras said SHSU cadets have started their trainings with Cadet Julian King leading the SHSU program next year. Cadets are required to conduct volunteer hours, so they can help with the programs in the community helping local veterans and veteran programs such as setting up for the breakfasts and helping with the house remodel.

3. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

Tracie Demura, Deputy City Secretary