

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 15th DAY OF AUGUST 2019, AT 5:30 P.M.

Members present: Bill Butler, Fernando Chavez, Mike Christian, Liesa Hackett, Wayne Keen, Shane Loosier, John McManners, Leta Reiner, Mark Robinson, Leigh-Anne Stewart
Members absent: Terry Batson, Tom Fordyce, Robert Tucker
Guests present: Lt Colonel Joe Contreras (SHSU ROTC), Staff Sgt Andrew Prince (Army Recruiter), Genie McManners, Kenneth Lee (HEARTS), Tom & Charlotte Oleinik (HEARTS), Liza Garza (AUSA Texas), Trish Fairess

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Wayne Keen 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 July 2019 minutes were approved without objection.

b. Hear reports from committee members – Wayne Keen announced former board member Billy Gipson has passed. This is also John McManners last meeting as he is stepping down. 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. Mike Christian with the VFW attended the Veterans Breakfast and urged the Board to attend.

Leigh-Anne Stewart, American Legion Auxiliary member, gave an update on the American Legion's Commander & Presidents' ball. The American Legion's annual Chili Cookoff will be in October with more information to come. She introduced new American Legion Auxiliary Unit President Trish Fairess. Mark Robinson apologized for missing meetings and intends on being available for future meetings.

Fernando Chavez said H.E.A.R.T.S. was a great venue for the summer ceremony held July 18th. The next Stole Ceremony will be Friday, Dec 6. SHSU will have Vet Week November 11-15 with the Salute to Service football game scheduled for Nov 16th.

c. Future items, projects, and proposals. – Liesa Hackett is coordinating a training for members of the local clergy to teach them how to work with veterans in the community.

d. Items of Community Interest – SHSU Professor of Military Science Lt. Col. Joe Contreras said the ROTC offices are temporarily in the Arts Building. Student move-ins are happening over the next week. Charlotte Oleinik gave updates on the "Remember the Fallen" event at H.E.A.R.T.S. being held September 15-22, 2019. This week-long event honors all military personnel from Texas that have lost their lives since September 11, 2001 and their Gold Star families. This event is replacing the annual garage sale fundraiser. Tara Burnett is the new Executive Director of the museum. Museum Board Chairman Kenneth Lee said meetings will be held the 3rd Monday of the month and are open to the public.

Liza Garza with the Association of the United States Army spoke about a concurrent event on Tuesday, September 17th at the museum, Meet Your Army, to include many members of command staff and dignitaries. This luncheon will include a Future Soldier Swear-In and an Army-Community Covenant signing.

3. ADJOURNMENT The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Tracie Demura, Deputy City Secretary