

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY OF HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS VETERANS AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD HELD IN SMALL CONFERENCE ROOM AT CITY HALL, 1212 AVENUE M, HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS ON THE 18TH DAY OF JANAUARY 2018, AT 5:30 P.M.

Members present: Wayne Keen, Liesa Hackett, Johnny Holland, Leigh-Anne Stewart, Leta Reiner, Tom Fordyce, Fernando Chavez, John McManners, Ashley Taylor, Shane Loosier, Bill Butler

Members absent: Mark Robinson, Stephen Bright, Michelle Bright, Robert Ferguson

Guests present: Mike Christian, Charlotte Oleinik, Michelle Robertson, Geannie McManners

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chair 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 November 2017 minutes were approved without objection.

b. Hear reports from committee members

Charlotte Oleinik began reports with information about the 9th Annual Walker County Warriors Banquet that was set for one week from meeting date. Live and silent auction will be held. She announced H.E.A.R.T.S. Veterans Museum Festival set for March 24th. Helicopters and lots of activities are planned. Mobile Veterans Center will be available.

Johnny Holland, American Legion, reported 20 Christmas baskets to families and 38 gifts to children in need were delivered. Memorial Day there will be a fish fry, held by Sons of the American Legion. Working to actively recruit new members. Planning to have four motorcycle clubs made up of veterans and a car show during the March 24th.

Fernando Chavez reported he is making fliers to attract veterans on campus, including participating in a Veteran's Appreciation Day with SHSU Baseball. He is also planning a Veterans Discussion group for the first week of February. A veterans' graduation ceremony will be held at 6:30 p.m. on May 2. Last November, over 25 veterans walked the stage, with the Mayor and a councilmember in attendance. He anticipated over 30 this year.

Taylor reported she is back full time after having a baby. She reported that the focus for 2018 is mentoring with Military Peer Network with Texas Veterans Commission. The program involves older veterans mentoring younger veterans. There will be a resource fair soon.

Butler invited members of the board to support *We Are Stronger* movie, that is picking up steam. Butler played a role in the movie and the Museum was featured in the film.

c. Future items, projects, and proposals. – *There was no additional discussion for this item.*

d. Items of Community Interest – *There was no additional discussion for this item.*

3. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Brenda Poe, Deputy City Secretary